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'BENGALI ASMITA'

Mamata announces language movement

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TRAINING ACCIDENT

Bangladesh Air Force jet crashes into school, kills 20

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2006 TRAIN BLASTS

Bombay HC acquits all 12 convicted persons

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DATA POINT

Boys continue to outnumber girls in private schools

Enrolments have grown, but gender gap persists

OPINION » PAGE 7

SERIES DECIDER

India meets England in third Women's ODI

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India to host chess World Cup; venue to be decided

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

Global chess body FIDE on Monday confirmed that India would be hosting the chess World Cup later this year, but the venue has not yet been declared. New Delhi was tipped to be the host city earlier, but that now looks unlikely, with Goa emerging as a frontrunner. "We are considering a few cities and we will soon make the announcement," the All India Chess Federation secretary, Dev Patel, told *The Hindu*.

The World Cup will be held from October 30 to November 27. A total of 206 players will compete in the knock-out tournament, with spots at the Candidates, the qualifying event for the World championship, up for grabs.

FIDE was thrilled to bring the World Cup to India, said the body's CEO, Emil Sutovsky. "It is a country with a deep-rooted passion and support for chess," he said. "Indian chess fans' enthusiasm has always been remarkable, and we anticipate great interest in the event among local chess lovers... To enhance the experience, FIDE is committed to organising numerous side events, featuring tournament participants and chess legends," he added.

Dhankhar submits his resignation to President

The 14th Vice-President of India leaves office with two years left in his term; decision comes on the first day of Monsoon Session of Parliament; stepping down to abide by medical advice, he says

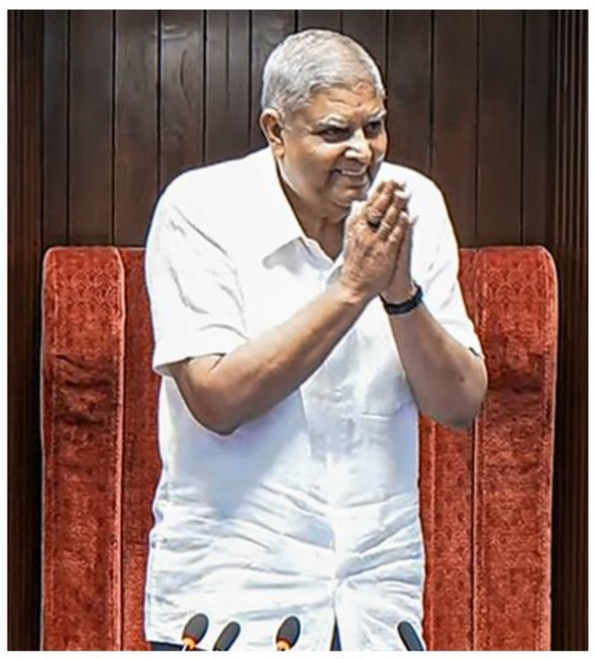
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, 74, resigned from his post citing health reasons on Monday.

"To prioritise health care and abide by medical advice, I hereby resign as the Vice President of India, effective immediately, in accordance with Article 67(a) of the Constitution," the resignation letter addressed to President Droupadi Murmu, which was posted on the Vice-President's official X account, said. He had called on President Murmu in the evening.

Mr. Dhankhar had suffered a cardiac event in March but was said to have recovered and had been participating in his engagements since. The rest of the letter expressed his "deep gratitude" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Council of Ministers as well as the "warmth, trust and affection" that he had received from MPs.

Mr. Dhankhar was elected India's 14th Vice-President in August 2022, and has two years left for his term to complete. President Murmu has not indicated whether she had accepted the resignation.



Final session: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar greets the members of the Rajya Sabha on Monday. ANI

The move has come as a surprise to many leaders, as Mr. Dhankhar had presided over Rajya Sabha proceedings on the first half of the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday, which included an important intervention in the Opposition-led motion for removal of High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma. He did not return for the post-lunch Session but spoke to MPs and floor leaders till evening.

Several MPs that *The Hindu* spoke to said he did not give any indication of quitting. He also presided over the Business Advisory Committee meeting of the Upper House at 12.30 p.m. Sources said that he was unlikely to attend the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

At 3.53 p.m., the Press Information Bureau had issued a press release saying that Mr. Dhankhar is headed to Jaipur on a day-long visit. A Congress leader said he spoke to Mr. Dhankhar at 7.30 p.m. and the Vice-President gave no indication about his decision.

According to an Opposition MP, Mr. Dhankhar told him around 4 p.m. that he would speak in the House about impeachment motions against Justice Yadav and Justice Varma. Mr. Dhankhar, who had been Governor of West Bengal before being elected Vice-President, had an eventful tenure, especially in terms of his public speeches and his role as presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha. In December 2024, Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh dismissed a motion of impeachment against Mr. Dhankhar moved by the Opposition, calling it "a move to denigrate the dignity of a constitutional authority", reflecting the somewhat testy relationship between the Opposition and himself.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

V.S. ACHUTHANANDAN (1923-2025)

VS, communist icon and former Kerala CM, passes away

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The former Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan passed away in a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. He was 101. The end came at 3.20 p.m. Doctors attributed the cause of death to a massive cardiac arrest.

Mr. Achuthanandan had withdrawn from public life after a minor stroke in 2019. He had since led an assisted life at the residence of his son, V.A. Arun Kumar, in Thiruvananthapuram.

The veteran communist and freedom fighter had been an iron-jawed icon of the communist movement in Kerala and a towering, if not fiery, presence in State politics for decades. As a crusading Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Mr. Achuthanandan was a standard-bearer for underdogs and uphill public causes, including environmental protection, gender equality, wetland conservation, better pay for nurses, transgender rights, and free software.

He began his political odyssey at the age of 16 by joining the popular opposition against the feudal landlords and colonial rule in Alappuzha. He cut his teeth as an activist and agitator by organising indentured agriculture labourers and Aspinwall factory workers in Kuttanad.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

NEARBY

'No officer sought to be excluded from SIT'

BENGALURU
Amid speculation that two IPS officers, who are part of the SIT set up to probe into the allegations of a series of murders and burials at Dharmasthala, have sought to be excluded from the team, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that such claims are not true. » PAGE 4

Preparations begin for Yellow Line opening

BENGALURU
Preparations are under way for the inauguration of Yellow Line of Namma Metro, though BMRCL officials said no formal confirmation has yet been received on Prime Minister Narendra Modi presiding over the event. » PAGE 3

DGP restricts use of sirens

BENGALURU
DG&IGP M.A. Saleem has issued a direction to all the unit heads to restrict the VIP escort vehicles from using sirens unnecessarily. » PAGE 2

SC cautions ED against being used to fight political battles

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> Do not try to use the court as a platform for political battles. Do not percolate this virus across the country. Let political battles be fought before the electorate... Why are you [ED] being used...?
>
> **JUSTICE B.R. GAVI**
> Chief Justice of India

MUDA CASE

The Supreme Court on Monday cautioned the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) about being "used" to fight "political battles" even as it dismissed appeals filed by the Central agency against a Karnataka High Court decision to set aside money laundering charges against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi and State Minister Byrathi Suresh in connection with allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority.

"Do not percolate this virus across the country. Let political battles be fought before the electorate... Why are you being used...?" Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, heading a Bench comprising Justice Vinod Chandran, orally asked the ED, represented by Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju. As soon as the hearing began, the CJI said the ED should not even take the risk of drawing out any oral observations from the court.

"Please don't ask us to open our mouths in this case... We have been saying since morning to not use the Supreme Court as a political platform. Otherwise, we will have to make harsh comments against the ED," Chief Justice Gavai addressed Mr. Raju. Earlier in the day, Chief Justice Gavai had warned an NGO against using the court to fight political battles.

The CJI Bench also refused to entertain an appeal filed by the State of Karnataka against a High Court order quashing a case registered against BJP MP Tejsavi Surya on allegations that he spread "fake news" on the suicide of a farmer in Haveri district.

"Please do not politicise the matter... What is this?" the CJI asked. "Do not try to use the court as a platform for political battles. Fight somewhere else," the CJI had said even in that case.

The High Court order in the MUDA case had come in March after Ms. Parvathi and the State Minister challenged the ED summons. They had contended that there was no clear evidence of 'laundering' of 'proceeds of crime'. They had contended that Ms. Parvathi had surrendered 14 sites allocated to her and she was neither in possession of nor enjoying any 'so-called proceeds of crime'

The High Court had raised doubts about the ED's haste in initiating proceedings on the basis of alleged illegality in allotment of sites to various persons by MUDA, including Ms. Parvathi.

The ED had countered that the investigation was not confined to only the allegation of allotment of 14 sites to Ms. Parvathi but also on the alleged illegalities in allotment of hundreds of sites by MUDA to various individuals, including real estate businessmen, agents, officials, and various influential individuals. The court, however, agreed to Mr. Raju's request to record that its order would not be used a precedent.

Exclusion from rolls under SIR won't affect citizenship, EC tells SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) assured the Supreme Court on Monday that a person would not cease to be a citizen merely on being found ineligible for registration on the electoral rolls under the special intensive revision (SIR), under way in poll-bound Bihar.

The electoral body was responding to allegations raised by petitioners that SIR was "citizenship screening" and would lead to mass disenfranchisement.

The EC said in its 88-page affidavit that it was vested under the law and Constitution with power to request proof of citizenship for "enabling the constitutional right to vote".

"The guidelines issued for SIR are constitutional and in the interest of maintaining the purity of electoral rolls... However, it is reiterated that determination of non-eligibility of anyone under Article 326 [adult suffrage] will not lead to cancellation of citizenship," the poll body explained.

The EC made it clear that voters who were already part of the existing electoral rolls of Bihar would feature on the draft roll to be published on August 1, provided they submitted their enumeration forms, with or without documents. The existing electoral rolls were published in Bihar on January 7, 2025 after a special summary revision.

The electors who were unable to submit their enumeration forms with documents in time for the draft roll had another opportunity to be included on the final roll. "This claims period is stipulated for another period of 31 days after publication of the draft roll," the EC clarified.

During the claims period, the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) shall scrutinise the enumeration forms and documents furnished after publication of the draft rolls. If the ERO has any doubt on the eligibility of any elector (who has submitted their documents or otherwise), a *suo motu* inquiry will be started by the ERO and a notice issued to the elector as to why his/her name should not be deleted. The ERO will decide on inclusion of such electors in the final roll based on documentation, field inquiry, or otherwise.

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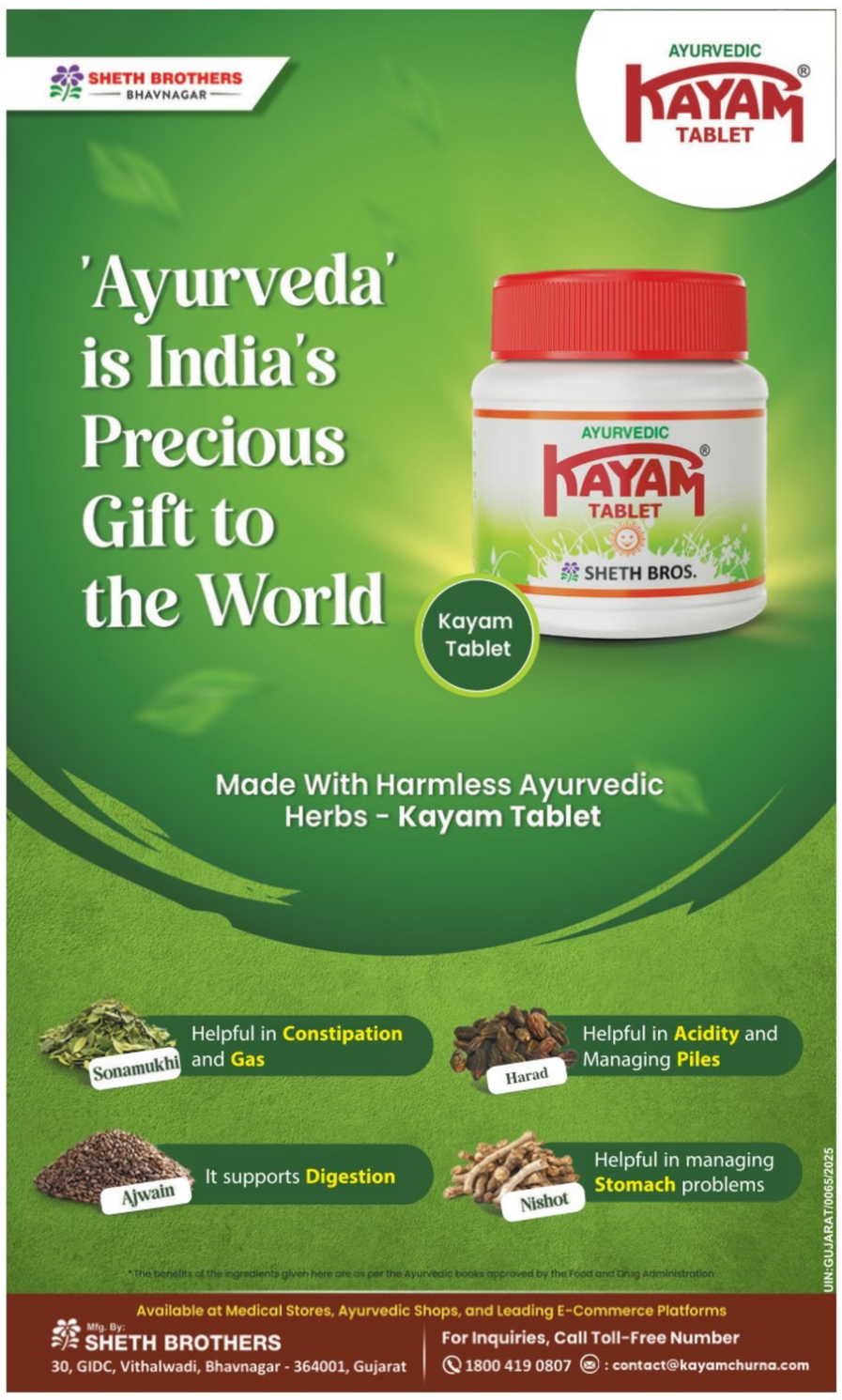

We want to stay No. 1 in Asia and get back to winning ways

Indian men's hockey coach Fulton says no need to press the panic button despite below-par performance in FIH Pro League; says focus is on building depth in squad

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

INTERVIEW

Craig Fulton

Uthra Ganesan

Going in as genuine contenders for a World Cup spot through the FIH Pro League and returning with just one win, seven successive defeats and second-from-last position was not part of the plan for the Indian men's hockey team on the European leg of the competition but coach Craig Fulton is in no mood to press the panic button.

With just over a month to go for the Asia Cup – the next opportunity for the team to book a 2026 World Cup spot – Fulton is keen on learning from the negatives of the tour, building on the positives and staying focussed on the main prize. As the team prepares for an important Australia tour, Fulton spoke about a wide range of issues including taking responsibility of the performances, developing a strong bench and keeping emotions apart from facts to move ahead.

Excerpts:

What is your takeaway from the European leg of the Pro league?

It was disappointing by the results in terms of what our expectations were. There were small moments in every game that didn't go according to plan. At the same time, we were competitive and could have easily drawn or won some of those games, so it was quite frustrating. A lot of it comes down to small moments, restarts, a little bit of defending, outletting under high pressure, penalty corner defence and attack. Normally, we're pretty good in those areas. And for some reason, it just didn't work out the way we wanted it to. We've got a plan for improving those areas.

Still, there were some positives. Against Holland, we pressed really well, we had a fantastic second game. We matched them for circle entries, we had more PCs. Unfortunately, we just couldn't score. There were big moments in games that we didn't take. We tried a new tactical system, a zonal system. In February, we did more man-to-man system. Now we have both, so yeah, it's a good block of reflection for us and discovery.

How do you deal with something like seven straight defeats as a coach?

It was extremely difficult. I've been through that once before with the Ireland men. I think we had eight straight defeats before we played the Rio Olympics, because we were playing teams better than us. But in this situation, there's more of an expectation that you would beat teams around you or even ranked above you.

The boys felt frustrated that we were doing the right things but couldn't finish. And then we would make mistakes and lose by a goal. But you win or you learn. It's really on you to take those tough lessons and turn them into reality. Take away the emotions and find the facts. We couldn't finish the fourth quarter like we started the first. There are lessons everywhere, we've had a good reflection on them. We'll now bring out those lessons and put them into training.

I think one of the games, it might have been the Argentina match, where at the start of every quarter, we conceded a goal, straight up after scoring. It's just a lapse in concentration and I'll take full responsibility for not having prepped the group the way it needed to be. But that's what happened, we can't brush that under the carpet. We have to man up and be accountable for that. I know the guys want to fix it. And they know they can fix it.

GETTY IMAGES

Especially going into the Asia Cup and beyond, that's our priority for the year. We've got a lot of good teams wanting to win this tournament, get direct World Cup qualification. We want to stay number one in Asia and get back to winning ways.

Could you elaborate on the team's frustrations during that losing streak?

You have an expectation to play well, get the results, and then it doesn't happen. How do you bounce back, stay together, not blame? How do you just stick together and make sure that your values shine through on the pitch? Your work rate, discipline is there.

It's frustrating for the player and for the team. Because what if it happens in a tournament? How are you still able to win important matches if you're not at full strength? You have to find a way to win.

I think also when you add one or two injuries to that, that was a difficult period. But it's also an opening for others to take more responsibility. And that's also really important in a programme where you want to qualify for the World Cup.

You mentioned different structures you've been trying since the start of this year...

There's always a story behind the results. We're preparing ourselves for tournament hockey and different oppositions. When you come to the World Cup, there's world opposition. Not everyone plays the same way. We're already looking at that a year out. What we are pleased with is the tactics we chose and the way we played. We could do both. We didn't get the results *per se* but at a tournament, you would have 16 or 18 players and with each performance, they can get better. When you have 24 players, everyone needs an opportunity to play, so it's not perfect.

At the same time, we showed that we were competitive enough in the tactics we chose and that the players could implement those tactics. We didn't get the results but we can certainly get better in certain areas. We have to focus on PC defences and attacks, the final third, conceding soft goals along the baseline, things like that. But that's fixable and trainable.

Do you take heart from the fact that there were similar results before the Paris Olympics but the team went on to win a medal?

You see the lessons you have to learn behind the scenes. Is it pleasant losing five in a row? No, it's the most frustrating place to be. But as long as you turn those lessons into something tangible, it's worth it.

They're exposing where you're actually weak and that's what you need. If you don't and you go and play them in a big tournament, then it's on you. I'm glad we did a good job with that. We have to do a good job with these results now, moving forward.

How important was the Pro League in terms of assessing the conditions for the World Cup?

Very important. It's also why we got the Indian-A team to play matches in Holland and Belgium, so there's seeds planted around, 'this is where it's going to be. This is what's going to happen'. Although we're not playing at the tournament venue, it's away from India and that's really important because it's easy for an Indian team to play in India, the support is phenomenal.

It's how an Indian team performs away that is the true mark of how the programme is set up and how successful it is. We're trying to do a lot of games outside India so that they don't have full support in the build-up games. A World Cup won't be any different.

You've repeatedly spoken about Harmanpreet and how he was missed with injury. Is there any thought on how the team wants to go ahead when he's not there on field?

I think there's a short and long-term view on this because obviously Harman's not going to play for the national team forever. But while he's here, how do we find someone who can support him? Amit has a different skill-set, he can flick and hit. Jugraj has a good flick, Rajinder and Sanjay have been trialled, Neelam's been tested.

But yes, it's difficult to replace Harmanpreet. It's not something that you think about because while you have him, he's a powerful force.

At the same time, when you don't have him for four or five games, it makes a big difference. But that's a good problem to have. Yes, there's a challenge to replace Harman but we're not replacing him right now. We also have some variations, options that we haven't used yet.

Following up on that, there's just three weeks between the World Cup and the Asian Games next year and both are important. In that sense, how crucial is it to actually find backups, not just for Harman but for every role?

This is exactly why we we did the tour with the India-A squad. We're looking to build depth within our squad. We had a training camp with 40-odd players but it's like two squads, for the specific reason you've just mentioned. No one else in the world I think has their World Cup and three weeks later their Olympic qualifiers.

It's a massive challenge. We are trying to build depth and then, as we go into the next three, six, nine months, we'll have a better idea on the specific positions we need backups for. We've got a good idea of it.

But once you start playing games, and once we qualify, then we'll know what we really need. The key is that the Indian-A team keeps playing games and gives these younger players opportunities and I think it'll benefit Indian hockey in the long run.

What is the plan going forward?

There's a block of four friendly matches in Australia. We take a squad of 24 and we'll do selection try-outs there.

We'll have 20 players that go to Bihar, 18 in the squad and two standbys.

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Labourer dies while cleaning manhole

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 31-year-old labourer died reportedly due to suffocation while cleaning a manhole in Akshay Nagar in RMC Yard police station limits on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Puttaswamy, who was hired along with another labourer identified as Antony to clean the clogged manhole.

The duo got into the manhole and reportedly inhaled toxic gases, and collapsed. The others pulled them out and took them to the hospital where Puttaswamy succumbed later while Antony is recovering.

The RMC Yard police have registered a case against three people who hired the victims for the clean-up work under the Manual Scavenging Act, 2013.

The owner of the house engaged the duo offering daily wage and did not provided any safety gear, the police said.

Rowdy sheeter murder case: Two more held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Another suspect, identified as R.D. Anil, reportedly a relative of BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, has been taken into custody

The Bharathinagar police on Monday arrested two more persons in connection with the murder of rowdy sheeter-cum-realtor Shivaprakash, alias Biklu Shiva, near his residence on Meanee Avenue Road at Bharathinagar on the night of July 15.

Seven held so far

With this, seven persons have so far been arrested in conection with the case.

However, the prime accused in the case, identified as Jagadish alias rowdy sheeter Jagga, is on the run and efforts are on to track him down.

The two arrested on Monday have been identified as Arun Temu and Naveen, residents of R.S. Palya and Banaswadi respectively, the police said.

According to the police, the duo allegedly played a key role in the murder and joined the gang to hack Shivaprakash to death.

Meanwhile, the police have also taken another suspect, identified as R.D. Anil, into custody for questioning for allegedly providing logistic support to the accused. According to the police, Anil provided a vehicle to the accused to carry out the attack and use the same vehicle to flee.

Yet to be confirmed

The suspect, Anil, is reportedly a relative of BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, who was named as accused number five in the case. However, the police are yet to confirm his relationship with the MLA officially.

The police questioned the BJP MLA on Saturday to try to establish his role in the murder. As per the FIR, it was the MLA who backed the assailants. While he appeared before the Bengaluru police for questioning on July 19, he has been summoned again on Wednesday.

KEA to submit proposal to govt. to reduce NRI ward quota seats from 15% to 5%

Many students are allegedly trying to get seats illegally by submitting false documents

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To prevent the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) ward quota seats in medical, dental and AYUSH courses from remaining unfilled and the misuse of NRI-ward seats, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has planned to submit a proposal to the government to reduce the number of NRI ward quota seats in the State.

Currently, 15% of the seats in medical, dental and AYUSH courses in the State are reserved as NRI ward quota seats, and the KEA is of the opinion that the number of these seats should be reduced to 5%. A proposal will also be submitted to the government to formulate appropriate guidelines regarding the allocation of NRI-ward seats.

Out of the available seats for admission to medical, dental and AYUSH courses in the State, 40% are government quota seats, 40% are private quota seats, 15% are NRI quota and 5% are management quota seats.

Vacant seats

However, every year, most of the NRI quota seats remain vacant. Of the 761 NRI quota MBBS seats available in the year 2022-23, only 73 seats were filled. In 2023-24, only 175 of the 767 seats were filled, and in 2024-25, only 137 of the 883 seats were filled. The remaining seats are being converted into management seats and given to the respective colleges to fill them.

NRI ward quota seats allotment list (year-wise)

	Medical		Dental	
Year	Intake	Allotted	Intake	Allotted
2024-25	883	137	375	22
2023-24	767	175	383	96
2022-23	761	73	403	17

Misuse of seats

As per the Supreme Court order and Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) rules, three categories of candidates are eligible for NRI seats, namely NRI, Overseas and NRI-ward.

According to the rules, for students to be admitted under the NRI quota, at least one parent should be an NRI and be residing abroad as an NRI.

For overseas category, the person who sponsors the student for admission should be a first degree relation to the student and should be residing abroad as an NRI.

For NRI-ward category, if the student has no parents or near relatives or taken as a ward by some other nearest relative, such students also may be considered for admission, provided the guardian has bona fide treated the student as ward. "Such guardian shall file an affidavit indicating the interest shown in the affairs of the student and also his relationship with the student and such person also should be an NRI, and ordinarily residing abroad."

However, many students are allegedly trying to get NRI-ward seats illegally by submitting false documents. It recently came to light that a person has forged the seal of Consulate General of India, Sydney, and logo of the Australian government illegally, created fake documents, and cheated a student from Tumakuru by taking money and promising to provide her a medical seat under the NRI-ward quota.

This case came to light when KEA was verifying the documents for medical NRI quota seats and a case has been registered against the fraudster at Malleswaram police station.

H. Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA, said, "As students bring certificates from more than a hundred countries to get medical seats under NRI-ward quota, we have no mechanism to check their authenticity on the spot. Most of the foreign certificates submitted by candidates are fake and fraudsters are cheating students and parents. In this regard, an FIR has also been registered against a person in a police station recently. Therefore, it is necessary to formulate appropriate guidelines at the government level regarding NRI-ward seats. We are planning to submit a proposal to the government in this regard." Most of the seats remain vacant and eventually, these seats are converted into management quota seats.

"However, the fees for NRI quota and management quota seats in medical colleges are the same. Therefore, we also planning to submit proposal to the government to reduce the NRI quota seats from 15% to 5% in the State," he said.

CLAT 2026 to be held on December 7

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) 2026, the entrance exam for National Law Schools, will be conducted on December 7 this year between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Consortium of National Law Universities decided on Sunday.

"The portal for applying for the CLAT 2026 will become functional from August 1 and remain so until October 31, the last date of application for CLAT 2026. Further details regarding the syllabus, application, and counselling process shall be released shortly," said a press release from the consortium.

State police chief restricts use of siren by VIP escort vehicles

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.A. Saleem, Director General and Inspector General of Police of Karnataka, has issued a direction to all the unit heads to restrict the VIP escort vehicles from using sirens unnecessarily.

In a reminder issued on July 21, Mr. Saleem said that the decision has been taken considering public safety and noise pollution. The unnecessary use of sirens will also alert unauthorised persons about the VIP movement, and cause panic among other road users, who may be end up driving haphazardly, he said.

Suggesting an alternative, Mr. Saleem said that the escort vehicles can communicate through the wireless option to the officials concerned, which is safe and effective. Sirens, according to him, should be used only by emergency vehicles, such as ambulances, fire tenders and police vehicles.

The directions should be strictly followed by all the unit heads, and conveyed to their staff for strict implementation, he added.

The escort vehicles buzz the sirens to alert police personnel at traffic signals to allow VIP vehicles to pass through. This would often lead to traffic problems, especially in city limits.

In 2023, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah refused to take zero traffic protocol soon after taking the oath of office. He said that the decision had been taken keeping in mind the trouble faced by other road users on the stretch where the traffic movement is restricted due to VIP movement. However, Police Department cited security as the reason for the zero traffic protocol.

E-TENDER NOTICE SAI

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA, NSSC, BANGALORE INVITES E-TENDER FOR FOLLOWING WORKS: -

1. SAI/NSSC/ENGG /LAY.BITUMEN & CC ROAD/RAIN WATER SUMP/RCC HUME PIPES/370/2025-26 FOR APPOINTMENT OF PMC FOR ASPHALTING/ LAYING OF BITUMEN ROAD FROM THE GANESHA TEMPLE GATE TO THE TYPE-II QUARTERS & LAYING OF RIGID PAVEMENT FROM FOOTBALL GROUND TO SHOOTING RANGE & LAYING OF RCC HUME PIPE NEAR 330 BED WOMEN HOSTEL & CONSTRUCTION OF UG SUMP/RAINWATER HARVESTING TANK ALONG WITH PUMPING STATION AT SAI, NSSC, BANGALORE FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT E-TENDER WEBSITE

HTTP://EPROCURE.GOV.IN/EPROCURE/APP, HTTPS://SPORTSAUTHORITYOFINDIA.NIC.IN & HTTP://WWW.SAISOUTH-BANGALORE.COM.

THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF E-TENDER IS 07.08.2025 UP TO 18.00 HRS.

SD/-
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-INFRA

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our clients **(i)SRI.B.S.PANDURANGA SINGH** S/o Sri.B.H.Shankar Singh and his wife **(ii)SMT.ROOPA SINGH,** residing at No.7, Hoysala Sai Shelters, Sanjay Nagar, Bengaluru-560094 have cancelled the (i)Development Agreement dated 31/03/2011, registered as document No.MLR-1-00045-2011-12, stored in CD No.MLRD61, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Maluru (ii) General Power of Attorney dated 09/12/2013, registered as document No.MLR-4-00443-2013-14, stored in CD No.MLRD96, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Maluru; (iii) General Power of Attorney dated 09/12/2013, registered as document No.MLR-4-00445-2013-14, stored in CD No.MLRD96, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Maluru and all other Agreements & Understandings executed in favour of **M/s SHUBHA PRAGATHI BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS,** a Partnership Firm, having its Office at No.51, Manjunatha Nilaya, Hennur Main Road, Kacharakanahalli, St.Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru-560084, represented by its Partners: **SRI.R.SHANKAR** S/o Sri.C.Ramachandrappa, and **SMT.M.S.DHANALAKSHMI** W/o Sri.R.Shankar, with respect to the Schedule Property, under the following Cancellation Deeds:

(i) Deed of Cancellation of Development Agreement dated 07/06/2025, registered as document No.MLR-1-02479-2025-26, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Maluru on 11/06/2025;

(ii) Cancellation of General Power of Attorney dated 07/06/2025, registered as document No.MLR-1-02481-2025-26, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Maluru on 11/06/2025;

(iii) Cancellation of General Power of Attorney dated 07/06/2025, registered as document No.MLR-4-00128-2025-26, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Maluru on 11/06/2025.

Thus, the said **M/s SHUBHA PRAGATHI BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS** have no manner of right, title and interest in or over the Schedule Property and hence they cannot enter into any kind of agreements with any third parties nor can execute any deeds of conveyance with respect to Schedule Property or the sites. Any transactions that may take place on the strength of the General Power of Attorneys which have been already revoked/terminated/cancelled under the said Cancelation Deeds, will not be valid and binding on our clients and our clients would not ratify the said transactions.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the lands (details of survey numbers and extent given in the table hereunder), situated at **Chokkandahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Maluru Taluk, Kolar District.**

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent		Sl.No.	Sy.No.	Extent	
		A	G			A	G
1	108/1	1	6	18	111/2	-	38
2	108/5	1	1	19	125/2	2	4
3	111/1	1	-	20	105/1	1	25
4	111/4	-	38	21	112/1	-	27
5	111/3	1	14	22	124/4	-	32
6	108/3	-	27	23	124/3	-	32
7	108/2	-	39	24	104/3	-	23
8	111/2	-	38	25	104/2	-	12
9	121	1	34	26	133/2	-	26½
10	123/2	-	21	27	123/1	2	-
11	124/1	1	32	28	104/1	-	33
12	116/2	1	9	29	106/2	-	3 ¾
13	129	3	29	30	117/1	1	38
14	116/3	1	6	31	117/2	2	4
15	120/2	1	38	32	123/3	-	20
16	116/1	2	24	33	133/3	-	26½
17	113	2	4				

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road,
BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/OPR/KLB/SEE (O)/AEE-1/2025-26/3901 Date: 19.07.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, Transmission (Operations) Zone Kalaburagi, Invites bids from the eligible bidders for the following bid enquiries no's on **Total Turnkey basis.**

1) Bid Enquiry No: CEE/OPER/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/ Works-2/ Afzalpur Capacitor Bank, Dated: 19.07.2025 for providing 20 MVAr Capacity, 110 kV voltage class Capacitor Bank along with allied equipments at 110/33/11 kV Afzalpur sub-station in Afzalpur Taluk, Kalaburagi District

2) Bid Enquiry No: CEE/OPER/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/ Goods-3/OLP Relay, Dated: 19.07.2025 for "Supply, installation and Commissioning of 100 Nos of OLP relays (as per specification) to EIP feeders with farm houses in various sub-stations of Kalaburagi (Operations) Zone, KPTCL".

For more information log on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.07.2025.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Transmission (Operations) Zone, "Prasarana Bhavan", KPTCL, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, KARTHIKEYAN.P & N.Mahalakshmi, R/a No.89/1, 1st Cross, A.K.Colony, Dodda Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043 have changed our minor daughter's name from G.Pooja to K.Pooja vide affidavit dt: 12.05.2025 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'luru

I, PINKI, d/o Kameshwar Prasad Singh, r/o: Flat No–212, Elite Grandeur Apt, Devarachikkanahalli Main Road, Blr–560076 Have changed my as Pinki Singh. Vide Afdvt Date On 19/07/2025.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GOWTHAM BHAT, S/o C.M. Narayana Bhat, age 46 years, R/at No.14, 12th F Main Road, Muthyalanagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560 054 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **GOWTHAM BHAT** and **GOWTHAM SHARMA .C.N** are one and the same and refers to me only, now I have changed my name from **GOUTHAM SHARMA .C.N** to **GOWTHAM BHAT,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **GOWTHAM BHAT** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 17th July 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.C. THAMMANNAGOWDA** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHEETAL Mane, d/o: Shivaji Ganapat Mane, r/o:402 Edison Block Sjr Parkway Homes, Gatahalli, Main Road, Rayasandra, Huskur, Bengaluru–560099. Have Changed My Name To Sheetal Sandeep Pawar. Affidavit Date On 16/07/2025.

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BUSINESS CONNECT A Business Initiative

Tanishq Celebrates A New Era of Sparkle Where Brilliance Meets Transparency

Tanishq, India's most trusted jewellery brand, in partnership with De Beers Group, has unveiled the first-ever Tanishq Diamonds Expertise Centre a first of its kind initiative that flips the script on long-held myths and redefines the diamond buying journey through trust, transparency, and technology. The Tanishq Diamonds Expertise Centre introduces a multi-tool setup featuring five advanced devices that evaluate key aspects of a diamond – including light performance, origin, inclusions, and laser markings. To celebrate the launch of this industry-first initiative, Tanishq hosted a spectacular gala evening that brought the vision of the Tanishq Diamonds Expertise Centre to life in the most dazzling way. The star-studded celebration saw timeless icon like Sushmita Sen, along with the celebrated Indian actress Fatima Sana Shaikh and the effortlessly elegant Sapna Pabbi alongside industry leaders and diamond enthusiasts, grace the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Ajoy Chawla, CEO, Tanishq, Titan Company Ltd. said, "With the launch of the Tanishq Diamonds Expertise Centre, our aim is to set a new standard in natural diamond retail – one that goes beyond traditional display and transforms the buying journey into a transparent, educational, and truly immersive experience. Amit Pratihari, Managing Director, De Beers India further added, Choosing a natural diamond is a deeply personal, emotional experience and they are committed to empowering Tanishq stores with world-class diamonds-expertise, ensuring Indian consumers receive a premier in-store experience with cutting-edge technology to authenticate every natural diamond, fostering trust and transparency.

Bhima Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Festival

Step into the Magic of the Bhima Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Festival which started from 7th and ends on 27th July 2025. It's time to glow like never before with the Bhima Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Festival, a dazzling celebration of sparkle, elegance, and timeless beauty across all Bhima showrooms and bhimagold.com. This July, treat yourself or your loved ones with the expertly crafted diamond jewellery from Bhima, and enjoy a. flat ₹7,000 off per carat on every sparkling diamond you choose. Whether it's a classic pair of diamond earrings, a statement necklace, or an elegant solitaire ring your dream diamond now comes with an irresistible offer. And that's not all Bhima is making the celebration even more sparkling, were customers on purchasing of diamond jewellery can get gold or silver jewellery of up to ₹2,00,000 for free during the offer period. As one of South India's most trusted jewellery house, Bhima brings together heritage, craftsmanship, and contemporary luxury like no other. Every diamond piece is a promise of purity, precision, and prestige. Hurry offer valid only till 27th July 2025. Walk into your nearest Bhima showroom and step into the magic of diamonds that don't just shine they speak.

Ajay Kumar Shrivastava Assumes Charge as Director (Engineering and R&D), HAL

Recently Mr Ajay Kumar Shrivastava took charge as Director (Engineering and R&D), HAL. Prior to this appointment, he held the position of Executive Director (Aircraft Research & Design Centre) at HAL. He began his career in HAL as a Management Trainee (Technical) in 1988. During his 37-year career at HAL, he held key leadership positions, including Head of ARDC and Head of TARDC. He has made significant contributions to major projects including the avionics upgrade of the entire HS-748 fleet, the Do-228, the Sea-King helicopter and the IL-78. Under his leadership, HAL obtained the DGCA certification for HAL's two Do-228 aircraft, the first indigenous transport civil passenger aircraft in India to be Type Certified and the type certification of Hindustan-228 aircraft. He has also successfully led the indigenisation of several critical aircraft components. He has extensive experience in design and development of trainer, fighter and transport aircraft as well as rotary aircraft. A recipient of the FASIA (French Aeronautics & Space Industry Award) for his contribution to the aeronautics industry, Mr Shrivastava has been instrumental in the avionics upgrade of Hindustan Jet Trainer-36 'Yashas' which was successfully demonstrated during Aero India 2025. Mr. Shrivastava holds a bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering from HBTI, Kanpur and a master's degree in Aviation Safety and Aircraft Airworthiness from ENAC/ENSICA, Toulouse, France. He is also a certified Project Management Professional.

Asia Jewels Show 2025

Recently Bengaluru's most awaited 'Asia Jewels Show 2025'– Fine Jewellery Exhibition was there to mesmerize the Jewellery lovers of Bengaluru city with its Special Luxury Edition for the Wedding & Festive Season! At The Ritz-Carlton, Bengaluru, Residency Road. Asia Jewels Show 2025, one of South India's most glamorous & niche jewellery exhibitions & sales, presented its 60th Edition. The show was a very exclusive one, as for the first time the expo showcased never-seen-before best jewellery designs from top handpicked jewellers from across India, all under one roof. The Grand Inauguration of Asia Jewels Show 2025featured the presence of Actress Radhika Narayan, Models & Actress & Pageant Winner Gomathy Reddy. Asia Jewels Show is a niche event exhibiting exclusive and high-end fine branded gold and diamond jewellery among others. The event showcases some of the latest collections from fine gold jewellery, diamond jewellery, platinum jewellery, traditional jewellery, wedding jewellery, antique, precious stone jewellery, kundan, jadau & polki & silver jewellery, lab-grown diamond jewellery to name a few. On display were luxury jewellery designs from top leading brands of Bangalore, Mumbai & Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Surat, Ahmedabad, creating the most glamorous & spectacular platform for all branded jewellery. Adding to the exquisite display was a dazzling array of international jewellery designs, from topmost brands all over India like.

Water, energy demand spotlights risk of human-induced quakes

Mining, extracting groundwater, impounding water behind a dam, injecting fluids into the ground, and engineering coastal structures have been shown to induce seismic activity. This is because loading and unloading the crust in a repeated manner can cause strain to accumulate underground

Nivedita S.

An earthquake of 6.3 magnitude wrought significant damage in Koynanagar in Maharashtra in 1967. Several studies that followed blamed the disaster on water overloading in the Koyna hydroelectric dam nearby. VARSHA DESHPANDE (CC BY-SA)

Earthquakes are usually natural – but not always. Sometimes some natural factors can combine with human activities to lead to earthquakes as well. Quakes induced by human activities are called human-induced earthquakes. According to one estimate researchers discussed in *Seismological Research Letters* in 2017, more than 700 human-induced earthquakes have been recorded around the world in the last 150 years, and they are becoming more common.

Human activities like mining, extracting groundwater, impounding water behind a dam, injecting fluids into the ground, constructing tall buildings, and engineering coastal structures, among others, have been shown to induce seismic activity. This is because, according to experts, loading and unloading the crust in a repeated manner can cause strain to accumulate between tectonic plates, which would in turn modulate seismic activity.

In India, seismologists have also been studying how the amount of water above and below the ground can affect the geological processes.

A 2021 study in *Scientific Reports* noted that shallow earthquakes recorded in the National Capital Region could be linked to excessive groundwater extraction in the region for farming and human consumption.

"It was seen that between 2003 and 2012, when the water table had depleted significantly, there was an increase in seismic activity. The seismic activity reduced after 2014 when the water table stabilised," Bhaskar Kundu, associate professor at NIT Rourkela and one of the authors of the study, told *The Hindu*.

Managing extraction

When groundwater is pumped out, the mass of water maintaining the pressure under the earth is removed, creating jolts on the surface.

"The situation is not of major concern because these earthquakes in the Delhi-NCR region are usually minor, with the maximum going up to 4.5 magnitude," C.P. Rajendran, geoscientist and author of *The Rumbling Earth: The Story of Indian Earthquakes,* said. "It can go up to 5.5, which for a densely populated city like Delhi could have risks."

This is because Delhi lies on several faultlines and is in the Zone 4 seismic risk category, meaning it's a quake-prone region.

The risk for earthquakes induced by groundwater extraction is spread across the Gangetic plains, where the water table has been dropping in leaps, Dr. Rajendran said. This is mostly because crops sown in the region still need large quantities of water and very little of that thirst is quenched by rainfall.

He added that there is a need to manage the rate of groundwater extraction and its recharge in a scientific manner and while considering the rate of seismic activity in the region.

In the past, human-induced earthquakes have devastated lives and property, caused foremost by large dams that change the water load on the surface. On December 11, 1967, for example, an earthquake of 6.3 magnitude wrought significant damage in Koynanagar, a village in Maharashtra. More than 180 people were killed and thousands of houses were destroyed. Several studies that followed blamed the disaster on water overloading in the Koyna hydroelectric dam nearby.

Similarly, research has recorded an increase in seismic activity around the Mullaperiyar dam in Idukki, Kerala, which like Delhi also lies in an earthquake-prone zone.

Energy and quakes

"The U.S., which has recorded reservoir-induced earthquakes, has implemented regulations on how quickly a dam should be filled and emptied. Such regulations should also be enforced in India to prevent earthquakes," Vineet K. Gahalaut, Chief Scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute, told *The Hindu*.

He also said seismic activities in a region should be properly evaluated before a dam is built there.

"Huge dams in seismically active areas like the Himalayas are not recommended because the water load and percolation could change the local stress regime," Dr. Rajendran said.

India's growing energy demand also increases the risk of this type of disaster.

"The methods used to extract energy to meet our needs have significant risks on our earth, be it oil or hydropower," Dr. Gahalaut said.

Fracking – where liquids are injected into the ground to push rocks apart and allow extraction of oil and natural gas – has also been shown to induce earthquakes, Dr. Gahalaut added. India currently has 56 fracking sites across six States.In Palghar district in Maharashtra, which has been experiencing a sequence of quakes since 2018, experts have said plate deformation is occurring in an isolated manner. Initial findings by seismologists indicated that the cause could be fluid migration due to rainfall.

> The U.S. has implemented regulations on how quickly a dam should be filled and emptied. Such regulations should also be enforced in India
>
> **VINEET K. GAHALAUT ,** Chief Scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute

"Strong seismic networks using instruments need to be established across India in regions like these, which are experiencing isolated plate deformation, to monitor and track seismic activity more accurately," Dr. Kundu said.

Impact of climate change

Scientists have said that climate change can indirectly affect the occurrence of earthquakes and render them more frequent over time. The melting of glaciers due to global warming has been found to trigger earthquakes around Antarctica and Greenland. Changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change have also been known to modulate the water loading process on the surface.

For example, sudden heavy rainfall could alter the stress accumulated between tectonic plates and induce seismic activity.

The area around the Sahyadri range of the Western Ghats has been recording tremors due to heavy rainfall for this reason.

"The height of the mountains should have been reduced considering the rate of rainfall. However, the mountains have maintained their height due to seismic activity," Dr. Gahalaut said.

Changing rainfall patterns can also change the soil chemistry, Dr. Rajendran said, affecting cropping patterns and compelling farmers to turn to groundwater for irrigation, which can also induce seismic activity.

Similarly, longer droughts can also reactivate seismic faults. Such a drought-induced earthquake was recorded in California in 2014.

"The risk of earthquakes is not present at all locations where there is groundwater depletion or huge dams, They have only been recorded in areas that are present on faultlines or are facing plate deformation processes," according to Dr. Kundu.

At present, the rate at which strain has been accumulating along plates and the fraction of this stress that is due to human activities is not possible to ascertain, he added. Experts have thus warned against concluding that such activities are solely to blame for tremors or earthquakes. Research thus far has only shown that these activities could postpone or accelerate tectonic processes causing these movements.

(nivedita.s@thehindu.co.in)

A Greenpeace activist in front of the Reichstag building in Berlin, July 7, 2025. AFP

New deep sea mining rules lack consensus despite pressure from the U.S.

Agence France Presse

After two weeks of negotiations, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) is still far from finalising rules for the extraction of coveted metals on the high seas despite heightened pressure triggered by US efforts to fast-track the controversial practice.

Following a meeting in March and the current session in Jamaica, the 36 members of the ISA's executive council completed on July 17 a line-by-line reading of the proposed "mining code" and its 107 regulations for exploitation of the ocean floor in international waters.

The minerals and metals in question, such as cobalt, nickel, and manganese, are used for electric vehicles and other emerging technologies.

But after more than a decade of talks, crucial sections of the proposed rules, including mechanisms for protecting the marine environment, are far from winning consensus.

"The exploitation activities cannot begin as long as we do not have a solid, equitable framework," Chilean representative Salvador Vega Telias, whose country is one of 37 asking for a moratorium on deep sea mining, told the plenary session.

President Trump ordered his administration to fast-track granting of permits for mining in domestic and international waters, citing an obscure 1980 U.S. law and sidestepping the ISA

He also said mining could not begin until experts could pinpoint "all the scientific knowledge that we need to have to identify the potential impacts and effects on the marine environment."

The ISA session, which will continue this week with the assembly of all 169 member states, comes as U.S. President Donald Trump threw a monkey wrench into the process in April.

Trump instructed his administration to fast-track the granting of permits for deep sea mining in domestic and international waters, citing an obscure 1980 US law and sidestepping the process undertaken by the ISA.

The United States is not party to the independent ISA or to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, under which the ISA was established in 1994.

Canada's The Metals Company (TMC) quickly jumped at the opportunity, lodging the first request for a high seas mining license, a short-circuiting of the ISA process that was slammed by non-governmental organisations and some member states.

Those parties appear to want to send a message to TMC on Friday, the last day of the council's session.

A draft text still under discussion calls on the ISA's legal and technical commission to investigate "possible issues of non-compliance of contractors that may arise out of the facilitation of or the participation in actions intended to appropriate resources... contrary to the multilateral legal framework."

The draft calls on the commission to report any instances of non-compliance or potential violations of the Law of the Sea and "recommend, where appropriate, measures to be taken by the Council."

The talks in Kingston have been tense at times, with several delegations miffed about the rules put in place by the council president, including convening some negotiations behind closed doors.

"What the council is discussing currently is the common heritage of humankind," Emma Watson of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, an alliance of NGOs, said, criticising what she called a "big shift" in procedure.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Animals with misleading names

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Contrary to the two descriptors in its name, the _____ _____ is true to neither. Instead, these mammals glide between trees and are more closely related to primates than to lemurs. They are also known as cobegos. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

The X Y is neither from X nor is related to Y. Instead, these South American rodents are called so because they were probably shipped from the West African coast, and can live in small quarters spending most of their waking hours eating. Name X Y.

QUESTION 3

"Tasmanian tiger" and "Tasmanian wolf" were common names for the _____, which of course was neither tiger nor wolf but a marsupial. The last individual of this species died in 1936 in Tasmania. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

_____ ____ is a common name for *Phrynosoma* lizards because of their small horns and their round bodies, blunt snouts, and move slowly. In fact *Phrynosoma* itself refers to their common name. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

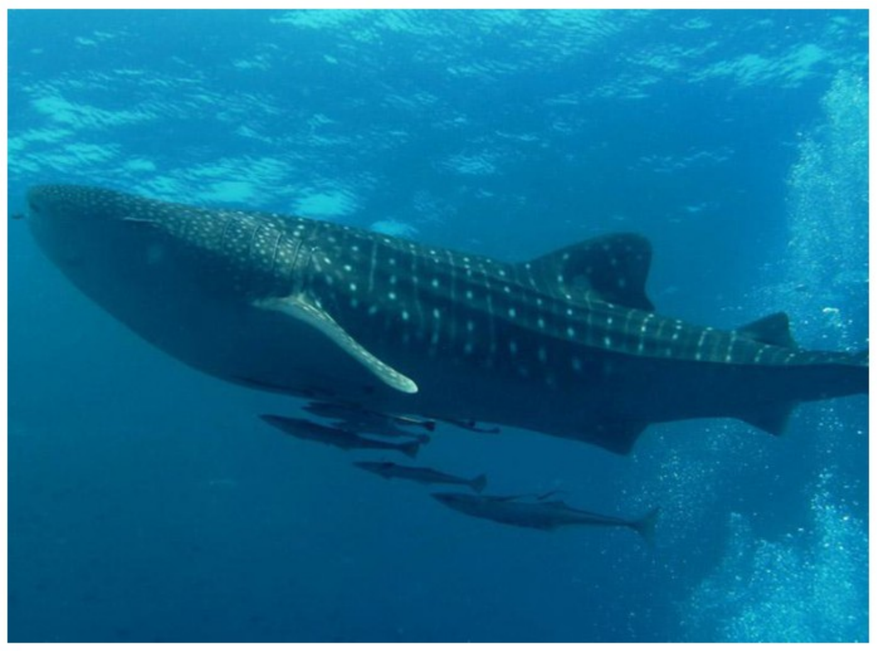
The P Q is also known as the sea cookie — and both names and others allude to the shape of this sea urchin's skeletons once they wash ashore. In some American folktales, the P Q were thought to be coins lost by mermaids. Name P Q.

Answers to July 15 quiz:

1. Property that causes crystals to split light into two beams – **Ans: Birefringence**
2. Conductor of 1801 experiment that revealed wave nature of light – **Ans: Thomas Young**
3. Distortion whereby colours are focused at different points – **Ans: Chromatic aberration**
4. Process that splits light inside a triangular prism – **Ans: Dispersion**
5. Light property that allows fibre optical cables to work – **Ans: Total internal reflection**

Visual: **Donna Strickland**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Chithra T.D. | James Stanly J. | Joe V.R.



Visual: This is the earth's largest living species of fish. It's unrelated to the first half of its name and, unlike the reputation of the second half, poses no threat to humans. Name it. ABE KHAO LAK (CC BY-SA)

BBMP division: Upkeep of key roads that form the boundary may be a bone of contention

Citizens, ctivists have raised concerns, saying this is expected to cause confusion on the ground

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Sampige Road is currently under two Assembly constituencies and two wards, leading to jurisdictional issues. The saving grace till now was that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was in charge of the maintenance of the road.

However, as per the draft issued by BBMP for the boundaries of five city corporations, the road will form the boundary between Central and West corporations, which means it will be under two completely different civic administrations, which will only accentuate the chaos, a resident said.

As five corporations have been carved out of the existing civic limits and the Brand Bengaluru Committee has adopted "the roads separating the multiple corporations to be as wide as possible" as one of the criteria for splitting the civic limits into five c orporations, several key roads have become the boundaries of these corporations.

Jayamahal Road, Palace Road, New BEL Road, K.R. Road, Sarjapur Road, Banaswadi Main Road, Ittamadu Main Road, Chikkalasandra Main Road are just some of the roads that will be boundaries between corporations, apart from several stretches of key arterial roads like Bannerghatta Main Road, Kanakapura Main Road, Ballari Road, Outer Ring Road also acting as boundaries between multiple corporations.

Citizens and activists have raised concerns that this is expected to cause confusion on the ground over the maintenance and upkeep of these key stretches of roads.

"There have been many road stretches falling in two Assembly constituencies in the city, like the 100 ft. road in Indiranagar, which was already causing confusion. But a road falling in two corporations is even worse. But this is inevitable in a multiple corporation set up and we need to think out of the box to solve this issue," a senior civic official said.

V. Ravichandar, a member of the Brand Bengaluru Committee, suggested that the Corporation boundary roads (and other arterial roads) maintenance and upkeep could ideally be handled centrally by an SPV like B.SMILE - their role could encompass city wide major infrastructure new projects as well as O&M of select assets. It will be necessary to budget for this O&M through GBA.

The road classifications have normally been arterial roads, major roads, collector roads and local roads. To this we need to include border roads, he said.

Prominent roads

Jayamahal Road, Palace Road, Ballari Road, Bagalur Main Road, New BEL Road, Mathikere Main Road, Sampige Road, Margosa Road, Mahakavi Kuvempu Road, K.R. Road, parts of Bannerghatta Main Road, parts of Hosur Main Road, multiple stretches of Outer Ring Road, Kanakapura Main Road, Ittamadu Main Road,

Chikkalasandra Main Road, Subramanyapura Main Road, Sarjapur Road, Haines Street, Benson Road, Banaswadi Main Road, Baiyappanahalli Main Road

Yellow Line inauguration: Preparations begin, speculation over PM's participation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Preparations are under way for the inauguration of Bengaluru's much-delayed Yellow Line Metro, though officials of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) clarified that no formal confirmation has yet been received regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi presiding over the event.

A view of the Namma Metro Yellow line near Kudlu gate, built parallel to the Electronic City Elevated Expressway, on Hosur Road, in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

'Nothing final'

As speculation grows over the possibility of the Prime Minister inaugurating the new corridor, BMRCL officials said that both the Central and State governments have been informed of the event. "Nothing has been finalised at this stage," a senior official said, while confirming that work related to the inauguration protocol has already begun.

BMRCL has roped in a private production firm to create a promotional video highlighting the 19-km stretch, which will include footage of metro stations, aerial drone shots, and key features of the line. This documentary-style film is expected to be showcased at the inauguration, tentatively scheduled for the second week of August 2025.

Officials confirmed that each station along the Yellow Line has been asked to designate a nodal officer to coordinate with the production crew during the shoot.

The Yellow Line, connecting R.V. Road in South Bengaluru to Bommasandra via crucial junctions such as Central Silk Board and Electronics City, was originally set to open in 2021. However, the project has been missing deadlines multiple times, most recently missing a revised launch target of June 2025.

CMRS inspection

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) is scheduled to conduct inspections of the Yellow Line from July 22 to July 25. This inspection is a statutory requirement and involves rigorous assessment of the tracks, fire safety protocols, entry and exit points, and the operational readiness of the driverless train sets.

Although the physical infrastructure has been in place for some time, operational delays have largely been due to setbacks in receiving the train sets. Initially, in 2019, Chinese company CRRC was awarded a ₹1,578-crore contract to supply 216 coaches with a mandate to build a manufacturing facility in India, something the firm failed to deliver on.

This non-compliance caused a substantial slowdown in the project's progress, prompting BMRCL to issue multiple notices to CRRC and consider enforcing a ₹372-crore bank guarantee. To salvage the situation, CRRC partnered with Titagarh Rail Systems Limited, a Kolkata-based firm, enabling train deliveries to resume.

Currently, BMRCL has only three train sets available for the Yellow Line. A fourth set is undergoing trials at the Titagarh facility and is expected to be dispatched by July 28, with delivery to Bengaluru likely by August 12, officials said.

"Following the CMRS inspection, BMRCL will need around two weeks to incorporate any safety or operational recommendations. If timelines are met, partial commercial operations on the Yellow Line could begin by mid-August," an official added.

Comprehensive development plan for Hebbal junction ordered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Monday instructed officials to design a comprehensive development plan for Hebbal Junction in the city and to complete the work within a stipulated timeframe.

Mr. Rao, along with Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh, inspected the ongoing work at Hebbal on Monday.

"The first phase of flyover work is being carried out at Hebbal Junction by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). The flyover bringing traffic from K.R. Puram into the city is almost complete and ready for inauguration. The development design for the junction should be prepared by considering the other ongoing works including the metro, suburban railway work, K-RIDE, tunnel road work by BBMP and more," he told the officials after the inspection.

He noted that since multiple projects were under way at the junction, pedestrians were facing significant safety issues. For that, he instructed the officials to construct proper pedestrian pathways to allow easy and safe movement from one side to the other while also also installing proper crossing and markings on pedestrian paths.

Mr. Singh stated that the Traffic Police Department would extend full cooperation during the development work at Hebbal Junction.

Mr. Rao also inspected the ongoing metro work at Nagawara junction and as the junction gets waterlogged during rainy season, he told the officials to find a permanent solution to the problems by installing new pipelines.

Mr. Rao also visited the area near K.R. Puram metro station.

HC notice to State on plea challenging constitutional validity of GBG Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issue of notice to the State government and the State Election Commission (SEC) on a PIL petition questioning the constitutional validity of the Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Act, 2024.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi passed the order on the petition filed by well-known Kannada film director T.S. Nagabharana and three others.

The petitioners have also sought a direction to the State Election Commission to hold elections to the existing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Pailke (BBMP) while pointing out that the last election to the BBMP was held 10 years ago, in 2015, and both the government and the SEC have failed to hold timely elections to the BBMP as per the constitutional provisions despite expiry of term of the elected body about five years ago.

Pointing out that Section 9 of the GBC Act provides for establishment of a Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) consisting of Chief Minister as ex-officio chairperson, Minister in charge of Bengaluru development as vice-chairperson, Ministers representing greater Bengaluru area, Minister in charge of urban development and various officials as ex-officio members, the the petitioners have contended that the "GBA is an unconstitutional body", which holds power to exercise control over city corporations to be created under the Act.

As the GBG Act entrusts power with the GBA, which is an unconstitutional body, to control the city corporations consisting elected representatives, the Act is contrary to the 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India, which provides power for local self-government, which is the basic purpose of the provisions contained in the 74th Amendment, the petitioners have claimed.

'City MLAs excluded from special grants scheme'

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The 28 MLAs coming under Bengaluru city have been excluded from the special grant scheme announced recently by the government, according to Chief Minister's Economic Adviser Basavaraj Rayaraddi.

He told media persons in Hubballi that Bengaluru MLAs had been excluded from this special grant scheme as government has already announced special grants to Bengaluru constituencies.

₹7,425 crore released

"It has been decided to release ₹50 crore for Congress MLAs and ₹25 crore to Opposition MLAs in other constituencies. In all ₹7,425 crore will be released to 196 MLAs of the ruling and Opposition parties as special grant under Chief Miniter's Special Infrastructure Development Scheme and budgetary provision had been made for the purpose," he said.

Traffic police to crack the whip on civic contractors to ease road congestion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to ease traffic congestion and ensure smoother commute, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have taken a stern stance against companies responsible for civic works that are either delayed or abandoned midway. The BTP will issued notices to civic contractors and utility service providers, directing them to complete long-pending road works within a week's time or face legal action .

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, who reviewed the traffic situation soon after taking over, told the media that incomplete or prolonged civic works, ranging from road digging for drainage, cable laying, to utility repairs, had become a major cause of traffic snarls across key junctions and arterial roads in the city.

"We have issued notices to such companies which have taken up civic works after obtaining due permission from Traffic Department or any other civic agencies and not completed the work," Mr. Reddy said. These companies had been notified to complete the work within a week failing which legal action would be initiated against them, he reiterated . He said that the Traffic Department would also recommend the civic agencies to blacklist such companies for their inordinate delays in completing the work and causing traffic problems in the city.

Despite repeated requests and reminders several contractors failed to restore the roads, leaving commuters to navigate through bottlenecks, dust, and uneven surfaces, which forced us to take this step, a police officer from the east division said .

The move has come as a relief to road users, especially with monsoon rains making the situation worse.

40 choke points

In addition to this, the department identified 40 choke points in the city, a majority of them in the east division. One such example is a stretch between Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram, which houses several IT companies along the ring road.

The city has 1.2 crore vehicles registered for the 1.4 crore population where traffic management is a challenging task, a senior police officer said .

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUL. 22	
RISE	06:03 SET 18:49
RISE	03:12 SET 16:42
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 23	
RISE	06:03 SET 18:49
RISE	04:16 SET 17:44
THURSDAY, JUL. 24	
RISE	06:03 SET 18:49
RISE	05:20 SET 18:39

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	28	19
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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World Brain Day: Stroke management and head injury care to be provided in State

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Soon timely stroke management and head injury care will be available for people in government medical colleges closer to their residing districts. NIMHANS in coordination with the State government has developed 'hub-and-spoke' model for stroke and head injury care across Karnataka.

Under this model, an advanced stroke and head injury centre (hub) at NIMHANS will coordinate for establishment of spoke centres in six medical colleges and provide guidance and support across the State. July 22 is observed as World Brain Day and the theme for 2025 is "Brain Health for All Ages."

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is disrupted, either by a blockage or a bleed, causing brain cells to die due to lack of oxygen and nutrients. This can lead to a range of disabilities, from mild weakness to severe paralysis, and in some cases, permanent disability and even death.

Golden hour

Recognising the symptoms and seeking immediate medical attention within the "golden hour" - four to six hours after symptoms begin - is crucial for minimising damage and maximising recovery. Immediate treatment can significantly improve outcomes by restoring blood flow to the brain and preventing further cell death, doctors said.

The stroke management and head injury care project will be on the lines of Karnataka's heart attack (ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction - STEMI) management project currently running in 86 taluks. The hub-and-spoke model will avoid delay in providing stroke diagnosis and treatment apart from head injury care to needy patients. Accessibility to timely care closer to their place of stay will avoid patients rushing to NIMHANS, thereby ensuring there is no congestion at the premier mental health institution. At NIMHANS six to 12 stroke patients and 15 to 16 head injury cases are seen daily.

Girish B. Kulkarni, Professor of Neurology and head of the stroke unit at NIMHANS, told *The Hindu* on Monday that the hub-and-spoke model for stroke management, involves a network of healthcare facilities where NIMHANS, the apex stroke centre (hub), will provide advanced care and support to surrounding smaller facilities (spokes). "This model aims to improve stroke outcomes by streamlining access to timely and appropriate care, especially in the crucial "golden hour" after a stroke," Dr. Girish said.

A spoke centre at the Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute (KMCRI) in Hubballi has started tracing stroke patients and has been providing routine stroke management recently.

Apart from KMCRI, spoke centres will be established in government medical colleges in Bengaluru (Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute), Mysuru Medical, Raichur and Ballari. "We have identified the colleges and the centres will be established soon at a total cost of ₹56 crore," Dr. Girish said.

BMTC suspends conductor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BMTC has suspended a conductor involved in a fatal electric bus accident at the Peenya Bus Stand, which left one woman dead and four others injured. The move comes after CCTV footage from the bus was reviewed. The outsourced private company operating the e-bus has terminated the services of the designated driver.

The accident occurred on July 18 when 41-year-old conductor Ramesh attempted to move a stationary BMTC electric bus. With the driver away , Ramesh, after obtaining signatures from a BMTC official, decided to move the vehicle to make space for other buses. However, he lost control and drove the bus into a makeshift eatery on the roadside.

IT-BT Dept. hosts meet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, under its Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) initiative, hosted the Global Collaboration Meet in Bengaluru on Monday to promote the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 (BTS 2025) to its partner countries and international trade mission representatives.

The meet was convened to further strengthen cross-border collaboration in the lead-up to Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, scheduled to take place from 18-20 November at BIEC, Bengaluru.

According to Ekroop Caur, Secretary to Government, Department of Electronics, IT & BT, and S&T clusters outside Bengaluru including Mysuru, Dharwad, Belagavi, Hubballi and Mangaluru also have been receiving significant traction from foreign countries.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The score of India's first Olympic dressage rider in S-level meet

70 In per cent. Anush Agarwalla, India's first Olympic dressage rider, won his first-ever S-level competition at the Jubilaumsturnier Hofgeismar Open in Germany. S-level dressage involves advanced movements like piaffe, passage, flying changes, and canter pirouettes. ANI

Worth of assets attached by ED in Delhi real estate scam

682 In ₹ crore. That's the value of immovable assets attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in its probe against Ramprastha Promoters and Developers Pvt Ltd. The ED has arrested Sandeep Yadav and Arvind Walia, director and majority shareholders of the firm. ANI

Estimated value of drugs seized in arms, drugs haul in Manipur

76 In ₹ crore. The security forces seized this near the Barak River in Jiribam district, Manipur. The joint operation by Assam Rifles, Manipur Police, and CRPF led to the arrest of one person from Silchar and recovery of 616 soap cases of heroin and 50,000 methamphetamine tablets. ANI

Number of drunk driving cases in Delhi from January to July

16,608 The number of drunk driving challans averaged to over 81 per day this year, according to Delhi Traffic Police data. The northern range, including areas like Rohini and Bawana, topped the list with 4,581 cases. PTI

Extent of encroached land claimed by the Assam government

10 In lakh acres. According to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, this land is still encroached by "illegal Bangladeshis and doubtful citizens". Mr. Sarma said that 43,000 acres were cleared in the last four years through eviction drives. PTI

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What is the legal status of right to vote?

What is the difference between a constitutional right and a statutory right? What does Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provide? What did Justice Ajay Rastogi state in his partial dissent in the Anoop Baranwal case?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:
The Supreme Court is hearing cases filed against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. One of the questions that has arisen during this debate has been the legal status of the 'right to vote.'

What are various rights?
Before understanding the status of 'right to vote' in India, let us briefly understand the different types of rights.

Natural rights are inherent and inalienable rights that are bestowed by nature on individuals. Right to life and liberty are considered to be natural rights. Indian courts may decide that a natural right is embodied in a fundamental right, but they do not directly enforce any natural right. Fundamental rights enumerated and guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution secure equality and liberty which are enshrined in our Preamble. The state is prohibited from making laws that violate these rights. They are directly enforceable in the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution.

Constitutional rights are contained in the Constitution but outside of Part III. These rights include right to property, free trade, and no taxation without the authority of law. These rights are operationalised through Union and State legislations aligning with the constitutional mandate. They are enforceable in a High Court under Article 226 or as per the legal process in the laws that operationalise them.

Statutory or legal rights are provided and amended by ordinary laws of Parliament or State legislature. Examples include right to work under the MGNREG Act; rights of scheduled tribes under the Forest Rights Act; right to subsidised food grains under the National Food Security Act etc. These are enforceable as per the legal process in the laws that provide these rights.

Verifying legality: Booth level officers fill and collect the counting forms from electors in the Patepur block of Vaishali, Bihar on July 10. ANI

What does the Constitution say about universal adult franchise?
Article 326 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination. It provides that every citizen, who is not less than 18 years of age on such date as may be fixed by law and is not otherwise disqualified under the Constitution or any law on certain grounds, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter.

The laws enacted by Parliament in this regard are the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act, 1950) and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951). Section 16 of the RP Act, 1950 disqualifies a non-citizen from being enrolled in the electoral roll. Section 19 of the same law requires that the person is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is 'ordinarily resident' in a constituency.

Section 62 of the RP Act, 1951 provides the right to vote to every person whose name is entered in the electoral roll of a constituency. It further specifies that this right shall not be exercisable by a person who is disqualified under the RP Act, 1950 or is in prison.

What have courts ruled?
The legal status of the right to vote has been a subject matter of debate in various cases in our country. In the *N.P.Ponnuswami* case (1952), a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that the right to vote is a statutory right and subject to limitations imposed by it. In the *Jyoti Basu* case (1982), the court reiterated that the right to vote is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right but a simple statutory right. Subsequently in many cases, the same ratio was followed and upheld by the court. In the *PUCL* case (2003), Justice P.V. Reddy observed that the right to vote, if not a fundamental right, is certainly a 'constitutional right.'

However, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the *Kuldip Nayar* case (2006), again held that right to vote is only a statutory right.

In the *Raj Bala* case (2015), a division bench of the Supreme Court, based on the ratio in the PUCL case, held that the right to vote is a constitutional right. However, in the *Anoop Baranwal* case (2023), the majority opinion, reiterated the judgment in the *Kuldip Nayar* case, that the right to vote is only a statutory right. Hence, the current legal status of the right to vote is that it is a statutory right.

Justice Ajay Rastogi, in his partial dissent in *Anoop Baranwal*, noted that the right to vote is an expression of the choice of the citizen, which is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a). Right to vote is intrinsic to free and fair elections that is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Even if not considered a fundamental right, this right originates from Article 326 of the Constitution and is shaped by statutes made by Parliament. Considering these factors, the Supreme Court may consider elevating the status of right to vote into a constitutional right.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- Natural rights are inherent and inalienable rights that are bestowed by nature on individuals. Right to life and liberty are considered to be natural rights.
- Article 326 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination.
- Justice Ajay Rastogi, in his partial dissent in *Anoop Baranwal*, noted that the right to vote is an expression of the choice of the citizen, which is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a).

What have courts ruled with respect to AI and copyright?

Can AI models be trained on datasets which contain both copyrighted and public domain content?

G.S. Bajpai

The story so far:
Whether the intellectual material produced by various generative AI models infringes copyright laws has been a controversial question posed around the globe. Three recent rulings in the U.S. – *Thomson Reuters versus Ross Intelligence* (2025), *Bartz versus Anthropic* (2025), and *Kadrey versus Meta* (2025) – have brought considerable clarity to the issue. The decisions confirm that transformative training on legitimately acquired texts can qualify for 'fair use', though key limits remain on pirated content and unclear market impacts. However, the issue remains unresolved from a legal perspective.

Do AI models violate copyright law?
Generative AI models can occasionally produce content that closely resembles or even duplicates specific works from their training datasets, raising concerns about ethics and law. Legal outcomes often depend on whether training AI on original works and its subsequent output undermines the original works' market by replacing them, or whether the AI-generated content adds value and is considered transformative rather than a substitute. The legality of training AI with copyrighted data remains unsettled at the global level. Training generative AI models involves feeding them large datasets, often scraped from the internet, that include both copyrighted and public domain content, which raises legal issues regarding reproduction rights under copyright law. The primary concern is whether copying originals for training constitutes infringement or qualifies as fair use (in the U.S.) or as a text and data mining exception (in the EU and U.K).

What about databases?
The general principles of liability in determining the usage of databases and published works in the training of generative AI models are grounded in Intellectual Property (IP) law, contractual obligations, and privacy regulations. Generative AI has many IP uncertainties. There is legal ambiguity in determining whether the training of AI using IP-protected data, and the generated outputs constitute IP infringements. Some nations provide IP law exceptions, on the basis of it being for fair use, text and data mining, and temporary copying that may apply in cases involving generative AI. However, the absence of global harmonisation and the actual application of generative AI exceptions has not yet been tested, throwing up further legal uncertainty. Additionally, the ownership of IP rights of the output of generative AI is legally uncertain.

Presently, there is no explicit or harmonised global regulation that addresses the intellectual property implications of generative AI. The intellectual property laws of most nations were developed long before the advent of AI, leading to legal uncertainty over whether IP rights can subsist in AI-generated outputs and, if so, who would own them. This uncertainty is most pronounced in the area of copyright, where authorship traditionally requires human creativity.

What did the U.S. judgments state?
The two landmark U.S. court judgments, one in favour of Anthropic and the other Meta, deduce that the use of copyrighted material for training AI systems could qualify as fair use. However, these rulings do not close the debate regarding the legality of sourcing training data from pirated repositories.

In the *Anthropic case*, Judge William Alsup of the District Court in the Northern District of California ruled that using copyrighted data for training AI software was transformative, comparing the model's training to a writer learning from prior works. However, the judge held that Anthropic must face trial over its use of pirated copies to develop its library of material.

In the *Meta* case, Judge Vince Chhabria of the Northern District of California ruled in Meta's favour, concluding that the plaintiffs had not established that the company's use of their works would result in market dilution by generating AI outputs like the originals. Meta's actions were considered to be covered under the 'fair use' provision. But the judge said that tech companies making money off the AI boom ought to figure out ways to share the wealth with companies that hold copyrights. In both rulings, the judges adopted a broad view of the concept of 'fair use' when applied to AI training, and provided tech firms with legal protection from copyright liability. But the concerns of unauthorised data harvesting, or of future market damage, have not been dealt with. Courts have signalled that piracy is still a liability and that compensation systems for creators are long overdue.

What are the implications for India?
The *ANI versus OpenAI* lawsuit is significant in clarifying how India's existing IPR framework applies to generative AI. Under the Copyright Act, 1957, copyright owners enjoy exclusive economic rights including reproduction, adaptation, and translation, which require permissions for commercial use unless an exception under Section 52 (fair dealing) applies. While some argue that India's IP laws lack provisions specific to AI, the official position holds that the current legal framework is sufficient to address AI-related issues. India, as a member of major international IP treaties, recognises works created by legal persons and provides mechanisms to enforce rights through both civil and criminal remedies, including measures against digital circumvention.

The author is Vice Chancellor, National law University Delhi

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge at the inauguration of a multi-village drinking water supply project in Pavagada of Tumakuru district on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CM inaugurates drinking water project at Pavagada

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday inaugurated the ₹2,529-crore drinking water project in Pavagada town which would supply safe water from the backwaters of Tungabhadra dam to 270 villages of six taluks in three districts.

Speaking after inaugurating the project, he said it will end the perennial drinking water crisis in Pavagada town and villages of Chitradurga and Vijayanagara districts. Nearly 17.5 lakh people will benefit from the project.

The Chief Minister, who laid the foundation stone for the project in January 2018, said the drinking water scheme would help in improving the health of the people since they have been suffering from illness by drinking water with fluoride.

The water is being supplied to Pavagada from backwaters of TB dam, which is located at a distance of 230 km.

He said Pavagada taluk, which was one of the most backward taluks in the State and Tumakuru district, would be developed. He also laid the foundation for a 2,250-MW solar power project and other development schemes.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara and other district MLAs attended the programme.

GST notice: State and Centre have to agree on reprieve for traders

The governments have to decide in the GST Council on the future course of action since both the State and the Central GST are involved, according to an official

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Small traders and businessmen, who have come under the lens of the Commercial Taxes Department over the non-payment of Goods and Services Tax (GST) over the last four years for UPI transactions, can get a reprieve only if the State and the Central governments agree to a solution.

While the department is learnt to have issued notices to over 10,000 businesses based on the UPI transactions, it is difficult for the government to waive the penalty/interest or the tax burden, department officials say.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar claimed that the number of notices could be about 14,000, and said that the State would write to the Centre to withdraw notices, and blamed the BJP for the current problem.

"The governments have to decide in the GST Council on the future course of action since both the State and the Central GST are involved," an official said, adding that trade bodies and associations could petition the government over the inability of traders to pay tax retrospectively.

Joint Commissioner of Commercial Tax Meera S. Pandit at a meeting in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Based on information from PhonePe and Paytm, traders offering goods and who have exceeded ₹40 lakh in UPI transactions per annum and those offering services and who have exceeded ₹20 lakh in transactions per annum have been issued the notices. Sources said that Google Pay transactions are yet to be assessed.

"Because the tax liability can be flagged for the previous four years, the notices have been issued from 2021-2022 and till January 2025 when the department received data," a senior Commercial Tax official explained.

On Monday, officials also interacted with anxious small traders, who came to clarify their doubts, and explained the reason behind issuing the notices.

"Notice is a mode of communication or an intimation. Traders need not be worried. If exempted goods were handled, the notices will be withdrawn. The department will hear from traders and businesses will be assessed before the tax demand is issued," Joint Commissioner of Commercial Tax Meera S. Pandit told the audience.

The exempted goods include vegetables, fruits, flowers, milk, unbranded or unpacked foodgrains, handicrafts, petrol, diesel, and liquor.

If the trader is selling non-exempt goods in his shop, the GST will apply to those goods only, the department has clarified.

On the 18% GST demand raised in the notices, the official clarified: "Based on the documents provided on the transactions and other information, the final tax demand could come down. The demand can only be lowered but not increased when the demand order is issued".

"Though the notices have asked the traders to respond within seven or 10 days, sufficient time would be provided. Three reminders will be sent and officials will also telephone the trader. The assessment will be based on the best judgment and closer to reality if documents cannot be provided. The tax demand is not to trouble anyone or dip into profits," Ms. Pandit said.

Meanwhile, after the outcry by traders, the department has changed the format for issuing notices.

SC verdict a slap on the face of Centre's vendetta politics: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has termed the Supreme Court's verdict rejecting the Enforcement Directorate's appeal to investigate his wife Parvathi, in connection with the MUDA site allotment case, as a "resounding slap on the face of the Central government's vendetta politics".

In a release, the Chief Minister said: "This verdict has not only exposed the malice behind the case but has also unequivocally cleared our names of all the baseless allegations."

"I humbly welcome the verdict delivered by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran of the Supreme Court. Throughout my long political career, I have always bowed before the Constitution and the rule of law. This verdict upholds and protects that very belief," he said.

He said: "Unable to defeat me politically, the BJP and its allies stooped to misusing constitutional agencies like the CBI and ED to fabricate baseless cases against my wife and harass my family. This is not just an abuse of power but also a disgraceful and cowardly act. The mental agony we have been subjected to will forever remain a painful chapter in our lives."

Referring to Chief Justice Gavai's remarks that "electoral battles must be fought through the people, not through the misuse of institutions like the ED", Mr. Siddaramaiah said these words reflect the voice of his own conscience and of every Constitution-believing Indian. "This is the voice of justice rising against tyranny," he maintained.

Faith restored

"This verdict restores faith in the judiciary, especially among all who have fallen victim to the BJP's political witch hunt over the past 10 to 11 years," the Chief Minister said.

He also demanded that "the BJP and JD (S) leaders in Karnataka should publicly apologise if they have even an ounce of dignity or shame left."

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge too launched a counter-attack at the Opposition by demanding that Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok and BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra should resign if they have any dignity left in them.

SC grants relief to Tejasvi Surya in criminal case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the Karnataka government's plea against a High Court order quashing a criminal case against BJP MP Tejasvi Surya.

"What is this? Don't politicise the matter. Fight your battles before the electorate," a Bench comprising Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and K. Vinod Chandran said.

Mr. Surya was alleged to have disseminated fake news on a farmer's suicide in Haveri district.

The Bench dismissed the appeal of the State government and cautioned it against the politicisation of legal proceedings.

The case stemmed from a post shared by Mr. Surya on November 7, 2024, in which he cited a report from Kannada news portals claiming that Rudrappa Channappa Balikai was found dead after discovering that his land had been taken over by the waqf board.

The post was subsequently deleted after it emerged that the claim was unfounded.

No officer has sought to be excluded from SIT: Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid speculation that two IPS officers, who are part of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to probe into the allegations of a series of murders and burials at Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada district, have sought to be excluded from the team, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said on Monday that such claims were not true.

In response to a question on whether any member of the SIT has opted not to be in the team citing personal reasons, he said, "I am not aware of it. They are senior officers in responsible positions."

On Sunday, the State government constituted the SIT, headed by IPS officer Pronab Mohanty, Director-General of Police, Internal Security Division.

M.N. Anucheth, Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Recruitment), and IPS officers Sowmyalatha S.K. and Jitendra Kumar Dayama are part of the team.

None of the officers approached the government or the Home Department saying that they would not be part of SIT. "I don't know why the media is saying that," the Home Minister said.

G. Parameshwara FILE PHOTO

On comments by former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and his son B.Y. Raghavendra, MP, against investigating the allegations, Dr. Parameshwara said, "Who demanded an investigation? Many people from the region, including progressive thinkers and others, have sought it. A complaint was also filed about it."

"We should know whether the alleged sexual assaults and murders took place or not. If we prolong this, then it will not be right as per the law. Therefore, we have sought a probe. I don't know what will come out of it," the Home Minister said.

Dharmasthala case: Women's outfit seeks impartial SIT probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A women's organisation, Naveddu Nilladiddare, while welcoming the formation of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged crimes in Dharmasthala, demanded an impartial investigation into the case, re-investigation of the 2012 Soujanya rape and murder case, and that the Dharmasthala temple be taken over by the State's Muzrai Department.

The organisation hoped that the ongoing investigation would end the impunity of "powerful forces" behind the alleged spate of crimes in Dharmasthala.

In a statement released on Monday, the organisation praised the courage of the whistleblower who had now come forward, and demanded that he should be provided protection under the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018.

It also demanded that the families of the victims should be provided protection.

The activists have also demanded that the SIT should not only reinvestigate the 2012 Soujanya rape and murder case, but also investigate local police officers, against whom a court had recommended action for botching up the probe initially.

"No action had been taken against them. Questioning them will probably reveal the truth," the statement said.

The organisation has also called upon the judiciary to examine courts issuing gag orders against media covering the case.

It also demanded that the State government should take measures to take over the Dharmasthala temple as part of the Muzrai Department.

Injunction order issued

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Bengaluru court restrained several media houses, YouTube channels, and other unknown persons from carrying any defamatory content against Harshendra Kumar D., brother of Dharmasthala pattadhikari D. Veerendra Heggade, in connection with the alleged burials in the temple town, on Monday.

The court also said any defamatory content already published should be taken down.

Dharmasthala temple should not be tarnished, says Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, who welcomed the State government's decision to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the alleged burial of bodies in Dharmasthala, has said that spreading misinformation about the Sri Manjunatha Swamy temple in Dharmasthala was wrong.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday, Mr. Ashok pointed out that the State government formed the SIT in response to an anonymous individual's claim of having buried thousands of bodies in the Dharmasthala area. He demanded an impartial investigation into the matter and that the probe should not aim to falsely implicate anyone.

"If an individual has done something wrong, accusations should be directed at that person, and not an entire religious institution. The government should not assign additional responsibilities to the SIT, and the team should thoroughly investigate and ensure punishment for the guilty," he said.

"This matter pertains to individuals, not the Sri Manjunatha Swamy temple in Dharmasthala. No one should target the temple," he maintained.

Stating that the Kerala government had intervened in the matter, he said if any murder had occurred, the local police station should investigate.

"If thousands of bodies were indeed found, their families would file complaints, and the government should clarify how many such cases exist. People die near religious centres and in such cases, the police conduct investigation," he said.

Kharge a potential PM candidate: Rayaraddi

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Taking exception to BJP leaders, including State president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, making "sarcastic comments" against AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Economic Advisor to Chief Minister and MLA Basavaraj Rayaraddi termed Mr. Kharge "a potential Prime Minister candidate".

Addressing presspersons in Hubballi on Monday, Mr. Rayaraddi said that in September, changes can happen in national politics going by the statement by RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat about him retiring on reaching 75 years.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi being a truthful person may step down on attaining the age of 75 in September. When Mr. Modi steps down, then NDA partners may not extend the support," he claimed. "The BJP will be reduced to 265 and the Congress and allies will stand at 273+ in the Lower House. Rahul Gandhi and Mr. Kharge will have a chance to be potential PM candidates," he said.

MAHATRANSCO
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Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs.in Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-39/0725_TKC1 RFx 7000037042 (10th Call). For Supply, Civil, ETC Works of Augmentation of substation by providing additional 3x167 MVA, 400/220/33kV ICT along with extension of RRS up to existing 167MVA,400/220/33kV Spare ICT-2 unit at 400kV R.S. Dhule under Nashik Zone. (ICT will be provided by MSETCL).	1782.30 Lakhs / 25,000.00 + GST	04.08.2025 12:00 / 04.08.2025 12.05

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Respectful Homage
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The Visionary and Karmayogi is no more.
But his ideals will continue to guide us.

Shri. S.Viswanathan
(21.12.1915 - 22.07.2001)
Founder Chairman **SPB - ESVIN Group**

Directors & Employees of
SESHASAYEE PAPER AND BOARDS LIMITED
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BUILDING BLOCKS

The workings behind television screens

Just like the invention of transistors gave rise to the first TV, the discovery of particles with fractional charge may turn contemporary TVs into something we can't even imagine now

Adhip Agarwala

After a few months of a hectic summer, the rains are here. The IIT Kanpur campus is green and nature's colours abound once more. With monsoon, however, comes alive the age-old tradition as well: Sunday evenings of guilt-free laziness, together with the music of the rain's patter, a Bollywood classic on the TV, and some hot, simmering tea.

Over the years, the world's technologies have changed shape and form, including the TV. Blinking tubelights have turned to LEDs and televisions have changed from being cubic boxes to flat screens. Why and how did this happen?

It has something to do with physics discoveries behind the scenes.

GETTY IMAGES

Electrons to light

When you switch on the TV, you really just switch on the electrical socket where the TV plugs in. We know sockets carry electric currents transported by electrons. But how do these electrons become light?

This isn't unusual if you think about it. We see it all the time in our houses. The protagonist of this puzzle is a class of materials called phosphors. The phosphors (which are different from the element phosphorus) are also called fluorescent compounds because they have something magical about them.

When an electron hits a phosphor, the material throws out light. This has to do with the way electrons are arranged inside these materials. When another electron falls on them, the electrons in the phosphor become excited to higher energies. When they relax back, they throw out some of that energy as light.

Phosphors are thus used to cover the insides of tubelights and fluorescent bulbs. It's the reason we call white bulbs 'CFLs', short for compact fluorescent lamps. Inside the bulb or tubelight, one just needs flying electrons or other charges to hit these materials. If you have ever seen an old broken tubelight, the powder inside the glass tube is nothing but phosphor.

Moving pictures

In a tubelight, since we just need the light, we can uniformly coat all sides with a phosphor and the whole frame will light up when electrons strike it. But to create a picture on a TV screen, we need a few regions to light up and a few regions to remain dark. That way we can see the landscape of lit regions as a single image. We also need the lit regions to be able to change quickly – so quickly that as the pictures change, our brains think it's a moving scene rather than a series of still images.

Enter: a major invention of the early 1900s, the cathode ray tube. A cathode ray tube creates a stream of electrons through the tube flowing towards the screen. Imagine electrons as a flock of birds flying in one direction towards a wall, which in this case is the screen. Now imagine a bird traffic signal manager that can direct birds towards different points on the wall. We similarly need a way to direct electrons to different points on the screen.

If we know how much to deflect them, and how fast they are moving, we can plan exactly the location on the screen they will strike. And where an electron strikes, the region will light up. Just like the conductor of an orchestra, if our bird traffic manager can direct birds to different locations on the wall, we can continuously change the parts of the screen that will light up, creating a moving picture.

Magnetic fields

Now, even as we have a stream of electrons, how do we deflect them at will? This is done with the help of magnetic fields. Electrons have a charge, and one can move charges using two kinds of forces. Electric fields can make them faster or slower. This is what we see in clocks, wires, and torchlights, where batteries create the fields. A magnetic field, however, can do something more interesting. It doesn't change the speed of charged particles but it can make them move in a circle. It's like when you tie a ball with a thread: you can pull the ball towards yourself, or you can try to swing the ball around.

This other kind of force is called the Lorentz force – and it is applied by magnetic fields.

We can use magnetic fields to move the electrons to the location we are interested in, and thus we have our traffic police. A bunch of copper wires and coils can be used to create these fields. Such electronic circuits are called analog.

While a lot of physics and engineering goes into creating the perfect images you see on TV, the basic physics is simple. We understand how electrons get directed to different locations on the screen. As they strike various locations, the phosphor lights up. As the TV signal changes the points where the electrons strike, the screen changes continuously, playing for us our favourite Bollywood film.

Boxes to screens to...?

With time of course, physicists discovered new concepts and we didn't need all those coils of wire to move electrons. In 1947, scientists at Bell Labs in the U.S. invented the transistor. This device led to the computer boom and eventually semiconductor electronics.

Here, too, the physics concepts are similar. Instead of phosphor, we have another light-emitting material called gallium-arsenide-phosphide (GaAsP), which throws out light when electrons go into them. And instead of rays of electrons, we can direct electrons more precisely using electronic motherboards like in our laptops. If you're wondering how these newer technologies work, that's a story for another day.

The reason we could make moving pictures was the magnetic field's ability to deflect electrons. Here the electrons were moving in three dimensions, the same number of dimensions we live in. The dimension of space is the number of directions in which we can move. For example, if something can move in all directions – right-left, front-back, top-down, it's said to exist in three dimensions.

A TV of the future may just take advantage of electrons forced to move in two directions: front-back and right-left, like an ant on a table. This happens in some particular materials that physicists can make in the lab.

It turns out there is a big difference in physics between two and three dimensions. In two dimensions, if temperatures are very low, a group of electrons can behave in a funny way. They form what is called a fractional quantum Hall state. Here, effectively new particles emerge that have just one-third of an electron's charge, and they can move only along the edges of the material. Robert Laughlin, Horst Ludwig Störmer, and Daniel Tsui won the physics Nobel Prize in 1998 for discovering such particles.

These kinds of particles are called anyons. They are completely different from the particles we usually encounter in three dimensions, like electrons and photons. Scientists are trying to build a new, powerful kind of quantum computer using anyons as their qubits. These machines could be responsible for bigger technological revolutions in future, and not just TVs.

But for now, we still don't understand all the physics of anyons. The Wolf Prize, one of the most prestigious physics prizes, was given to Jainendra Jain among others in 2025 for developing the basic understanding of some of this physics. Interestingly, Prof. Jain, who now lives in the U.S., did most of his early studies in India including in Maharaja College in Jaipur and at IIT Kanpur.

If you are inclined to understand some of the physics that goes on here, you'll need to learn quantum mechanics and condensed matter physics. You can consider taking a course in physics here in IIT Kanpur, where some of us teach.

Future TVs

Just like the invention in 1947 of transistors soon gave rise to the first TV, the discovery of particles with fractional charge may turn contemporary TVs into something we can't even imagine now. We never know how discoveries in quantum condensed matter physics today will change the world in the next 30 years.

But just like the warmth of a hot tea on a monsoon evening, the charms of Bollywood classics and basic physics never get old.

The next time you watch an emotional scene unfolding on your TV, don't forget to thank the electrons and the magic materials working away behind the screens.

Adhip Agarwala is an assistant professor of physics at IIT Kanpur.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"I'm sorry I'm late. I missed the bus."

"And I almost walked two miles."

"Almost walked. I see. So, how did you get here then? Did someone give you a ride?"

"I told you that I walked."

"No, you didn't! You told me that you almost walked. Which could mean that you didn't walk at all!"

"What are you talking about?"

"There is a difference between 'I almost walked two miles' and 'I walked almost two miles'."

"There is? I didn't know that."

"When you say, 'I almost walked two miles', almost comes before the verb walk. It implies that you did not complete the act of walking. In other words, you didn't walk. Perhaps you wanted to walk, but at the last minute you found someone who could give you a ride."

"I see. What does 'I walked almost two miles' mean?"

"In that sentence the word almost comes before two miles. It tells you the number of miles that you came close to walking."

"I came close to walking! You mean..."

"...What it means is that you didn't actually walk two full miles. You came very close to walking two miles."

"I think I understand, but..."

"...let me give you a couple of more examples. What do you think is the difference between 'Ganesh almost spent five hundred rupees' and 'Ganesh spent almost five hundred rupees'?"

"Well let me see. In the first sentence it tells me how much money Ganesh came close to spending. He might not have spent exactly five hundred, but the amount he spent is very close to five hundred. Is that correct?"

"That's right. He might have spent Rs. 485 or 490. Something very close to 500. But the thing to remember is that in this sentence, Ganesh actually spent some money."

"I think I understand now."

"Good. Tell me, where are you coming from?"

"I had to go to the clinic. As you know my grandmother has the diabetes, so..."

"...You do not use the before diabetes. You say, 'My grandmother has diabetes'."

"You mean diabetes like malaria and cancer doesn't take the before it?"

"Yes, that is right. There are a few more illnesses that are not preceded by the – AIDS, tuberculosis and diarrhoea."

"Diarrhoea! Ha! Ha!"

"By the way, the word diabetes has the stress on the third syllable. The first syllable di is pronounced like the a in China. The e in the third syllable is pronounced like the ee in bee, see, and fee. And the e in the final syllable is pronounced like the i in bit, fit and hit."

"And is the s in the final syllable pronounced s or z?"

"It's pronounced s. Diabetes."

"Thanks for letting me know."

Published in The Hindu on April 22, 1997.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

India is set to host the FIDE World Cup 2025. Here is a quiz on the game of Chess

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
India had hosted an earlier version of the tournament in 2002. Who won the tournament?

QUESTION 2
A game of Chess ends with a result when one player 'checkmates' the other. The word checkmate was derived from the Persian word Shah mat. What does this mean?

QUESTION 3
Who was the first official world champion of the game?

QUESTION 4
What is the name of the rating system that measure's a player's prowess in the game?

QUESTION 5
How many moves was the longest [known] chess game in history?

Visual question:
Name the player on the right and the computer he is playing against, which in 1988, became the first machine to beat a grandmaster. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The name of the mission which took man to the moon and codenames for the Command Module and the Lunar Module. **Ans: Apollo XI; the CM was called Columbia, while the LM was named Eagle**

2. The rocket blasted off from this place, and the place on the moon where the lunar module landed. **Ans: Kennedy Space Center in Florida (specifically from launch pad 39A) and Sea of Tranquillity (Mare Tranquillitatis)**

3. The first words spoken from the surface of the moon. **Ans: Neil Armstrong said "Houston, Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed"**

4. Neil Armstrong carried this during the voyage. **Ans: A piece of wood from the Wright Brothers' pioneering aircraft 'Flyer' and a piece of fabric from its wing**

5. The connection between James Lovell, William Anders and Fred Haise. **Ans: They were the backup crew in case Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins were unable to fly**

6. Michael Collins omitted this from the insignia design for the mission. **Ans: Their three names**

7. The trio's version of 'life insurance' for their families in case they did not make it back to Earth. **Ans: Hundreds of autographs, which were to be auctioned off if and when needed by the families**

Visual: Name this. **Ans: 'Armalcolite', a portmanteau word made from Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins**

Early Birds: Nobody got all the correct answers

Word of the day

Surreptitious:
marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed; conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

Synonyms: furtive, sneaky, stealthy, clandestine, secret, undercover

Usage: *He took a surreptitious glance at his watch.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/surreptitiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌsʌɪɪpˈtɪʃəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

People of T.N. expect only single party rule in 2026: Edappadi

C. Jaisankar
TIRUVARUR

Edappadi K. Palaniswami

Amid repeated assertions by BJP strategist and Union Home Minister Amit Shah that his party and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, constituents of the National Democratic Alliance, would form a coalition government in Tamil Nadu after the 2026 Assembly election, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Monday said the people of Tamil Nadu expected only a "single party rule" in the State.

At the same time, he insisted that attempts to break the alliance of the two parties would not materialise.

In an interview with *The Hindu* in Tiruvarur, Mr. Palaniswami, who is on a Statewide tour as part of his "*Makkalai Kappom, Thamizhagathai Meetpom* (Will save people, retrieve Tamil Nadu)" campaign, said the next government would be formed in line with the people's sentiment.

The people of Tamil Nadu favoured a single-party rule. "We also wish for the same. The AIADMK will certainly form the next government on its own with an absolute majority and fulfill the people's expectations," he said.

Mr. Palaniswami downplayed the BJP's pre-poll assertion about forming a coalition government, stating that such claims were merely meant "to enthuse their cadres".

Asked about his recent remarks that "AIADMK men are not fools" in light of the demand for a coalition government, he said the statement was aimed at "scotching the well-planned, sinister campaign" by the ruling DMK alliance.

While contending that the AIADMK has not held any talks so far with actor Vijay's fledgling party, Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam, he said his appeal to all like-minded parties to join hands with the AIADMK to defeat the DMK applied for the actor-politician too. The same was applicable to the Naam Tamilar Katchi, a State political party headed by Tamil nationalist Seeman.

"There are eight more months for the election. A clear picture will emerge at an appropriate time," he said.

The Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly accused Chief Minister M.K. Stalin of not understanding the sufferings of the people. Mr. Stalin, he said, was projecting himself as the best "due to arrogance of power".

'VS was an epitome of struggle in every sense'

Fighting for the rights of the oppressed was the guiding principle of his life; the veteran will be remembered as an eminent Chief Minister, party leader, and most effective Opposition leader

M.A. Baby

From the archives: V.S.Achuthanandan, M.A. Baby and V. Sivankutty at the inauguration of T.K. Ramakrishnan Memorial Cultural Library and Research Centre in Thiruvananthapuram in 2008. FILE PHOTO

Comrade VS, or Velikkakathu Sankaran Achuthanandan, was the oldest living communist in India. I first saw him up close in 1970 at a Communist Party of India (Marxist) political meeting at the Kollam railway station ground.

Back then, he had a solid, well-built physique. His speeches, delivered with expressive hand gestures and vigorous body movements, demanded great physical effort. Often drenched in sweat by the end, his signature *jubba*, clinging to his body, created an unforgettable image that has stayed with me ever since.

Close interactions

After the Emergency, during the run-up to the 10th Party Congress, I became a member of the CPI(M) Kollam district committee. This gave me the opportunity to observe comrade VS more closely, particularly his leadership role. Initially, I found him to be extremely stern and strict.

But I recall a particularly telling instance that reflected his readiness to accept criticism. It was in 1980 that Comrade VS took over as the party secretary when Comrade E.K. Nayanar became Chief Minister.

The 1985 State conference of the CPI(M) held in Kochi became notable for the debate surrounding M.V. Raghavan's alternative document. However, another key discussion that emerged was the need for the leadership to engage with party workers at various levels in a more approachable and empathetic manner.

Just a few weeks after that conference, we were sitting on the veranda of the party district committee office at Polayathode, Kollam, reading newspapers, when Comrade VS walked in. Normally, he would head straight to the district secretary's room, always in a hurry. But that day, he broke from routine. He spent time talking with the comrades gathered there, enquiring about their well-being and exchanging a few friendly words before going inside.

Comrades, who attended the Ernakulam conference as delegates and heard the discussions, would have undoubtedly noticed this change. It reflected the defining spirit of a communist: a willingness to accept criticism and evolve.

Efficient CM

I worked with him in the Cabinet between 2006 and 2011. Despite having only a school-level education, it never hindered his performance as Chief Minister. He handled matters efficiently and decisively.

Fighting for the rights of the oppressed and the exploited was the guiding principle of his life. In that mission, his greatest inspiration was Comrade A.K. Gopalan.

VS was also an exceptional organiser. In 1958, when the undivided Communist Party held its congress in Amritsar, a byelection was simultaneously taking place in Devikulam. For the then EMS government, the outcome of that bypoll was crucial. Skipping the Party Congress, Comrade VS spearheaded the campaign, which led to the Left's victory after a fierce electoral battle.

Comrade VS will be remembered as an eminent Chief Minister, an outstanding party leader, and the most effective Opposition leader Kerala has seen. From a humble beginning as a tailor and coir worker, he rose through life's struggles to the highest levels of governance and the workers' movement.

He was in every sense the epitome of struggle.

(The writer is CPI(M) general secretary)

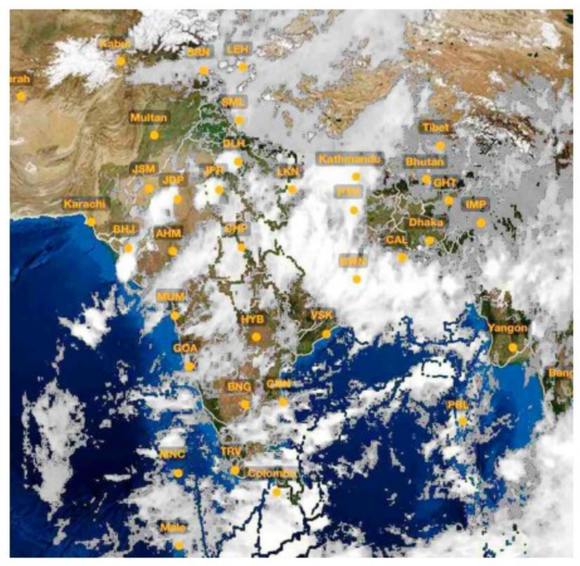
Modi offers condolences

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his condolences over the passing of CPI(M) leader V.S. Achuthanandan. "Saddened by the passing of former Kerala CM Shri V.S. Achuthanandan Ji... My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this sad hour," he said on X.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	8	34.3	27.2	Kozhikode	29	28.2	23.9
Ahmedabad	15	30.0	26.3	Kurnool	28	30.8	23.5
Aizawl	12.4	32.7	21.8	Lucknow	—	34.8	28.0
Allahabad	—	37.2	28.0	Madurai	—	36.5	27.1
Bengaluru	6	26.6	19.5	Mangaluru	35.4	25.8	23.0
Bhopal	—	32.4	24.2	Mumbai	115	27.8	25.0
Bhubaneswar	9.5	34.8	26.4	Mysuru	0.6	28.0	19.6
Chandigarh	21.5	26.4	25.6	New Delhi	—	33.6	27.2
Chennai	1	31.3	26.0	Patna	0.6	35.2	27.8
Coimbatore	—	28.4	21.8	Port Blair	42	29.4	23.6
Dehradun	73	26.8	20.5	Puducherry	—	33.8	26.8
Gangtok	0.7	26.4	19.0	Pune	—	31.1	23.8
Goa	44	26.4	24.0	Raipur	2	32.3	26.4
Guwahati	3	36.4	25.6	Ranchi	0.8	30.6	23.6
Hubballi	—	27.0	23.0	Shillong	15	25.3	17.5
Hyderabad	0.8	31.6	24.0	Shimla	56	23.0	19.4
Imphal	—	32.2	26.1	Srinagar	—	34.9	23.8
Jaipur	—	32.0	26.5	Thiruvananthapuram	30	30.0	22.8
Kochi	33	27.0	23.6	Tiruchi	—	35.3	26.6
Kohima	50	27.4	18.9	Vijayawada	85	31.4	24.2
Kolkata	—	35.5	27.7	Visakhapatnam	3	33.8	26.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.24	..19	29	 36	46	.....
Bengaluru	...9	..48	60	..... —	87	.....
Chennai	.10	..18	65	 43	83	.....
Delhi	.28	..53	49	... 100	...114	.....
Hyderabad	.37	..16	41	... 114	96	.....
Kolkata	...3	..68	15	 57	57	.....
Lucknow	.38	..12	..7	... 104	92	.....
Mumbai	.20	..28	21	 35	65	.....
Pune	..—	..47	73	 30	48	.....
Visakhapatnam	...7	..58	..8	 63	86	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Amritsar, Punjab recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 234 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2025-26-OT-07 (Through E-Tendering)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of GSM based smart prepaid energy meters for outsiders and temporary power supply connections over Bengaluru Division and Provision of inverters at LC gates over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 59,02,305/-

Last date for submission of Tender is: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 07-08-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General PUB/312/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y-E-29-2025-26-25 Dated: 15-07-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification for Platfom extension work at Masaralli 20-53-76-03	Rs. 76,63,015.77

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 06-08-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer PUB/311/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **TR / Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 1
5th FLOOR, KSHB BUILDING, PANAMPILLY NAGAR, ERNAKULAM, KOCHI-682 036.
O. A. No. 142 OF 2025
The South Indian Bank, Manathuvady Branch at Door No. 1-5, Sanjos Shopping Complex, St. Joseph Hospital Road, Manathuvady P.O., Wayanad District, Kerala- 670645 **: Applicant**
Vs.
1. Mr. Rajesh K C, S/o. Late Kesavan Nair, Manumottamal (H) Arattuthura P.O, Wayanad District, Kerala- 670645
2. Mr. Ravish K C, S/o. Late Kesavan Nair, Pillikkal House, Payyampally Post, Wayanad District, Kerala--670646
3. Mrs. Radha, W/o. Late Kesavan Nair, Pillikkal House, Payyampally Post, Wayanad District, Kerala- 670646
4. Mrs. Rakhi K C, D/o. Late Kesavan Nair, Sai Prabha, Pattam P.O, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala- 695004
5. Mrs. Reshma Mohan Nair, W/o. Rajesh, Raj Bhavan, HD Kote, Aranya International Rangegowa Badavane, Heggadedevankote Mysore, Karnataka- 571114
6. Mrs. Saranya N, W/o. Ravish K, Cambalamoola, Kavadam, Nadavayal, Wayanad District, Kerala-670721 **: Defendants**

Whereas, OA No.142/2025 (was listed before Hon'ble Registrar on 04.07.2025). Whereas, This Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons on the said application under section 19 (4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debt of **Rs.24,17,340.73/-** in accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:
1. To show cause with thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
2. To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;
3. You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
4. You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or Other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the Original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
5. You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar of this Tribunal on 21.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M. failing which the Applicant shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Dated this the 7th day of July, 2025.
Sd/- By order of the Tribunal - 1
Registrar (I/C)

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU | thehindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young world | THE HINDU

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Schedules on 31-07-2025 & 01-08-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Bidders to participate in E-Auction for contracts as scheduled below.

Sl.	E-Auction Catalogue No.	Stations	Category/ Sub-Category	Date & Time of E-Auctioning
1	PARKING-BYD-07	Parking contract at Byadgi (BYD) Railway Station	Parking – Mixed	31-07-2025 at 15:00 Hrs.
2	PARKING-AP-03	Parking contract at Ashokapuram (AP) Railway Stations	Parking – Mixed	01-08-2025 at 15:00 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/313/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
ARM BRANCH-II,2ND FLOOR,CIRCLE OFFICE,SPENCERS TOWERS, NO.86,M.G ROAD ,BENGALURU
PH NO: 080-25310181, E-MAIL-CB6298@Canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]
[Rule - 8 (1)] (For immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized Officer of the Canara Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **12.05.2022 calling upon the Borrower To :1) M/S AIR TEMP ENGINEERS (TRADE NAME),** 1ST FLOOR ,NO 2983 13th MAIN ROAD, ATTIGUPPE RPC LAYOUT VIJAYA NAGAR, BENGALURU-560040. **2) To SHRI. SHIVAKUMAR S (PARTNER) S/O SHIVANNA CHAR ,** 9/3, BYATRAYANAPURA, MYSORE ROAD, GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC FACTORY , BENGALURU -560026. **3) To SMT. R RAMYA (PARTNER) D/O RANGASWAMY CHIKKANACHAR,** 306, GOVT.SCHOOL ROAD, KUVEMPU NAGAR 2ND STAGE JALAHALLI EAST ,BENGALURU -560014. **4) To SMT. SARASWATHAMMA (GUARANTOR & MORTGAGOR) W/O SHIVANNACHAR** NO 51/14 3RD IYANNASHETTY LAYOUT, BYATRAYANAPURA BENGALURU -560026 **also residing at : To SHRI. SHIVAKUMAR S (PARTNER) S/O SHIVANNA CHAR** NO 34 B CROSS , DEEPANJALI NAGAR, MYSORE ROAD 560026.
to repay the amount mentioned in the notice of **Rs.20,35,771.84/-(RupeesTwenty Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One And Eighty Four Paise Only**) and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice dated **12.05.2022**
The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **21st day of July 2025.**
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank **ARM -II Branch** for an amount of Rs.**35,66,268.12** /-(**Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight And Twelve Paise only**)as on **21.07.2025** plus interest and other charges thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
NOTE : It is hereby informed that our earlier Possession Notice dated 19.08.2022 is withdrawn.
Description of the Immovable Property
All that piece & parcel of the property of site No. 33, Block No. 10 Khata No. 1 Situated at Comes Under Chunchanakuppe Village Panchayath, Chikkelluru Rampura Village, TavarekereHobli ,Bangalore south Taluk bounded on the: **East by:** Road , **West by:** Site No 48, **North by:** Site No 34 And **South by :** Site No 32
Name of the title holder : Smt. Saraswathamma
Date : 21.07.2025 **Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Canara Bank**

झारखण्ड राज्य बिवरेजेज कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड, राँची
(झारखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
कॉर्पोरेट पहचान सं0 –U51228JH2010SGC014519, TIN No - 20520108277
उत्पाद भवन, भूतल, नवीन पुलिस केंद्र के समीप, कॉके रोड़, राँची– 834008
E-mail :- jsbcl.jharkhand@gmail.com
ई–आमंत्रण पत्रांक सं०– **JSBCL/03** दिनांक –21/07/2025
इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति हेतू अल्पकालिन ई–आमंत्रण सूचना

झारखण्ड राज्य बिवरेजेज कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड, राँची		
गोदाम हेतू इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति हेतू अल्पकालिन ई–आमंत्रण सूचना		
क्र0सं0	विवरणी	अभ्युक्ति
1	इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति के प्रपत्र को वेवसाईट **https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** एवं **http://jsbcl.in** पर अपलोड करने की तिथि	दिनांक–23.07.2025
2	इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति को ऑनलाईन **https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** के माध्यम से जमा करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि	दिनांक–23.07.2025
3	इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति को Online रूप से जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक– 06.08.2025 के अपराहन 4:00 बजे तक
4	इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति के कागजात कोभौतिक रूप से निगम मुख्यालय में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक– 07.08.2025 के अपराहन 4:00 बजे तक
5	इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति को ऑनलाईन/ऑफलाईन माध्यम से तकनीकि बिड खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक– 08.08.2025 के अपराहन 03:00 बजे तक
6	इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति को ऑनलाईन/ऑफलाईन माध्यम से वित्त बिड खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक– 12.08.2025 के अपराहन 03:00 बजे तक

नोटः– (1) इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति की विस्तृत जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु **https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** एवं **http://jsbcl.in** से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
(2) इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति हेतू आवेदन ऑनलाईन **https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** माध्यम से ही स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं इसकी भौतिक प्रति राँची स्थित झारखण्डराज्य बिवरेजेज कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड मुख्यालय में जमा की जानी है।
ह0/–
महाप्रबंधक (संचालन)
झारखण्ड राज्य बिवरेजेज कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड, राँची
PR 357845 (Excise) 25-26 (D)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2025-26/24 Dated: 15-07-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Harihar :- Provision of Crane Facility in Sick-line Covered Shed.	Rs. 6,45,854/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 05-08-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General PUB/310/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Mr. Arun Kumar N aged about 56 years, s/o Late L Nanjundaswamy, residing at No.80, 4th Main, I Block, 3rd Phase, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore, Aadhar No. 803808314641 has irretrievably lost the Original Sale Deed dated 2-9-1993 executed on 2-9-1993 between BDA and Mr J Mohanavelu with Registration No. 1605/9394 registered at the office of Sub Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore. My client has lodged an online police complaint on 17-Jul-2025, under the acknowledgement issued by Bangalore City Police bearing Serial No.: 1706747 Lost Report No.: 1706747/2025
If any person(s) found the Original Sale Deed dated 2-9-1993, please come forward within 7 days from the date of this publication and handover the same to undersigned, and will suitably be rewarded. If anyone has already carried out transaction or in the process of being carried out, using the missing document, kindly inform the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within 7 days of this notification. Else there won't be any further claims from thereon.
Schedule Property
All that piece and parcel of immovable residential land located at 1130, 43rd Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout I Stage, Bangalore-560078 measuring 1000 Sq.ft and bounded as follow: East by: No. 1129, West by: 1131, North by: Road, South by: 1113
Sd/- Praveen M.R., Advocate
Mob: 9449104230

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

ANNUAL PRIZE DAY CELEBRATED

Bishop Cotton Girls' School celebrated their Senior School Annual Prize Day with pride, recognising academic excellence across Standards V to XII. The event commenced with a prayer by Rev. Christy Gnanadasan and a captivating invocation dance by senior students. Principal Dr Mrs Lavanya Mithran welcomed the gathering and introduced Chief Guest Mrs Preetha Reddy Pulusani, who inspired students with an empowering address. Cultural performances, including a semi-classical dance and an original play, added charm. Prizes and certificates were awarded, honouring student achievements. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem.

MAJOR GENERAL KRISHNAN INSPIRES STUDENTS

PM Shri KV ASC Centre (S) warmly welcomed distinguished alumnus Major General KTG Krishnan, SM, VSM, GOC, Shahbaaz Division. Received by Chairman Brigadier Rohit Sethi and I/C Principal Smt Bhagyalakshmi M, he addressed students on media literacy and national integrity. Sharing insights from Operation Sindoor, he presented live footage and stories of valour. Emphasising the dangers of misinformation, he compared false news to a bullet that causes deeper wounds. His heartfelt message resonated deeply, sparking patriotic enthusiasm. The auditorium echoed with 'Jai Hind' as students pledged responsibility and unity. He later interacted with staff before concluding his visit.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

National Public School, Kengeri, held their Investiture Ceremony with great pomp and dignity, marking a new chapter for the elected Student Council. Presided over by Assistant Commissioner Mr Basavaraju Teli, Secretary Mrs Divya B S, and Principal Mrs Geeta Dikshit, the event began with a ceremonial march. The Assistant Commissioner delivered an inspiring address on leadership and police operations, followed by an interactive session. The Head Girl and Head Boy shared their vision, and student leaders took their oath with pride. The ceremony motivated students to embrace leadership with purpose and school spirit.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai: Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

Unvarnished facts

The full and raw cockpit voice recorder transcript must be released

The pushback by pilot bodies and the agencies that are investigating the Ahmedabad air crash, to the damaging leaks by sections of the media could well turn out to be a tepid attempt to staunch the flow. While these leaks have been dismissed as "selective, unverified, irresponsible and baseless reporting" and triggered legal responses, they have, in a way, set a narrative going. There is no fathoming of what more the cockpit voice recorder could contain – especially relating to the troubling possibility of 'human intervention' in the crash of Air India flight AI171 on June 12. In this the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has to turn the spotlight on itself for its presentation of the key findings in its preliminary report. Its sparse detailing of an unusual "transitioning" of the two separate fuel control switches, from "run to cutoff' and back, a standalone snatch of conversation, reflecting unease and denial, between the crew in the unfolding disaster – that has been left open to endless interpretation – and, finally, a near blanket signing-off of no recommended actions concerning the aircraft type, the engine, and the manufacturers, only point to one direction – of the need for the release of a full and raw cockpit voice recorder transcript.

In a legal analysis, if credible evidence of 'human intervention' does emerge, the investigation could shift, with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 13 inquiry, that is focused on safety, moving alongside a parallel criminal probe under domestic law. It must be noted that in 2015, following the Germanwings flight 9525 accident – a case of definite 'human intervention' – the Government of India was mulling "mid-term" psychometric tests. Then Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Mahesh Sharma had said that psychometric tests should be carried out on pilots in India from time to time. He added that the Ministry would hold consultations with the regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, to facilitate the preparation of fresh rules keeping in mind the crash of the German plane. A senior counsellor at the Kolkata-based Indian Institute of Psychometry (founded in 1978) had also favoured having a repeat of psychometric tests "if a person, especially a pilot or cabin crew, was undergoing mental stress or had had a tragedy on the personal front". On July 17, in a letter of appeal, the AAIB had said that it would publish updates, as and when required, which would have content of technical and public interest. While it is understood that an air accident investigation would be meticulous, at the same time, the hope is that the AAIB clears the fog in the AI171 accident and presents the unvarnished facts – as promised in Parliament on Monday.

Cost of promises

Election-eve welfare measures display a lack of respect for voters

It is raining welfare in Bihar. Nothing surprising: the stakes are high for the ruling National Democratic Alliance in the approaching Assembly elections. According to recent announcements, household consumption of up to 125 units of electricity per month will be free, with effect from August 1 this year. This scheme will cover around 1.67 crore households. Under the Kutir Jyoti Yojana, the government will provide free rooftop solar installations for about 58 lakh Below Poverty Line families. The welfare hamper of the ruling coalition also includes a promise of 35% job reservation in all State government jobs for women, an increase in social security pension from ₹400 to ₹1,100, the creation of a Bihar Youth Commission, and more. A new internship support scheme offers between ₹4,000 and ₹6,000 a month to youth (18 to 28 years) for undertaking internships, and based on their educational qualifications. The plan is to start supporting 5,000 youth in the first year and scaling it up to cover one lakh beneficiaries over the next five years. To promote religious tourism, the State has announced a ₹882.87 crore redevelopment plan for Punaura Dham Janki Mandir, said to be the birthplace of Lord Rama's wife Sita. Migrants from the State who live outside will receive government support to return home during festivals.

All this follows a familiar pattern of governments using welfare as an instrument of election-eve management of popular sentiment. The absence of any serious planning or vision behind such sporadic announcements is evident. They are often in response to the promises of a political rival. In Bihar, the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal has said that the Nitish Kumar government's welfare catalogue is a forced reaction to its promises of similar measures if voted to power. Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Mahayuti government rolled out a cash transfer scheme for women which helped it win. Later, the new government pruned the list, admitting that there were undeserving beneficiaries. Free electricity schemes now exist in several States. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has often questioned the rationale of 'freebies', but arbitrary new schemes continue to proliferate. In Bihar, the scramble among parties is also in the context of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's advancing age. His party, the Janata Dal (United), is smaller than the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the election could further alter the dynamics of State coalition politics. The control of power had increasingly shifted from Mr. Kumar to the BJP in the last five years and the future of the JD(U) is set to decline. Competitive welfarism is all that remains in the toolkits of all parties to woo voters.

Ideas on trial, critical thinking in retreat

Shelley Walia

has taught Cultural Theory at Panjab University, Chandigarh

"Freedom only for the supporters of the government, only for the supporters of one party – however numerous they may be – is no freedom at all. Freedom is always and exclusively the freedom of the one who thinks differently." – Rosa Luxemburg

In an era marked by heightened geopolitical tensions and global scrutiny, nations are compelled to not only safeguard their territorial integrity but also uphold their moral foundations. For countries, characterised by their profound diversity of languages, cultures, and faiths, such moments present an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to democratic principles and pluralistic values. The projection of national strength tempered by restraint and public reassurances, stands out as indispensable components of this endeavour. However, the alignment of democratic values at home with the image projected abroad is equally crucial, necessitating the nurturing of freedom and open discourse domestically.

An erosion of intellectual freedom

Regrettably, a growing chasm exists between this ideal and the prevailing realities on the ground across the world. The sanctity of intellectual freedom is being steadily eroded across institutions, particularly universities and academic spaces, due to pressures of conformity and control.

The consequences of this trend are far-reaching, with professors facing reprimand or dismissal over minor comments, and students being subjected to punitive action for raising critical questions. This phenomenon constitutes a pressing global concern, albeit one whose repercussions are particularly pronounced in nations that have historically valorised open discourse and intellectual freedom. The United States, during Donald Trump's presidency, exemplifies this trend.

Philosophers such as Hannah Arendt have warned against these dangers of banality in oppressive regimes and the slow numbing of thought, where citizens retreat into private lives and abandon the public realm. Understandably, the assault on freedom is not only about censorship but also about inducing this kind of silence, where fear replaces inquiry, and conformity takes the place of imagination.

In such a climate, society's capacity for critical self-reflection and growth is severely impaired, leading to stagnation and intellectual rigidity. For instance, when curricula are rewritten to reflect ideological imperatives rather than pedagogical or historical rigour, when scholarly work is attacked for political reasons, and when free speech on campus is framed as sedition, we are witnessing the slow erosion of academic advancement. We have witnessed this phenomenon on campuses across the U.S., particularly in the context of pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Democratic backsliding is visibly accompanied here by an assault on intellectuals and independent media. In such times, it becomes easy to imagine that freedom of speech is a luxury or a liability, something to be curtailed for the sake of national unity or cultural pride. But, this is a false choice.

> Society's capacity for critical self-reflection and growth is impaired; stagnation and intellectual rigidity will follow

An intolerance of voices that question

At the heart of this crisis lies a growing intolerance with voices that challenge prevailing narratives, offer nuanced historical perspective, or simply ask inconvenient questions often painted as suspect. It must be taken for granted that democracy, by definition, demands disagreement and requires the ability to listen to those who think differently, to be challenged, and to evolve. The silencing of scholars, intimidation of writers, and discouragement of free inquiry do not merely target individuals; they diminish the society as a whole.

Noam Chomsky, whose work on propaganda and power remains seminal, noted that the destruction of independent culture is among the gravest abuses of authority. When knowledge itself is politicised, when truth is decided by decree, and when the university becomes a site of ideological performance rather than learning, we find ourselves perilously close to what he called "manufactured consent", or in other words, a democracy in appearance but not in substance.

Historically, universities have served as spaces where civilisational questions are posed, where the past is interrogated, and where future possibilities are imagined. To reduce these institutions to sites of ideological policing is to betray their very essence. The danger today lies not only in the curbing of dissent but also in its systematic delegitimisation. When critical voices are branded as "anti-national", when scholars are seen as threats instead of resources, and when academic inquiry is stifled by fear, society drifts toward intellectual repression. The result is a thinning of public discourse, a narrowing of thought, and a culture of self-censorship.

The geopolitical irony of this situation cannot be overstated. At a time when nations face real external threats, internal cohesion is undeniably vital. However, cohesion cannot be achieved through the suppression of thought. Unity born of fear is not unity; it is coercion. What the world respects is not only a nation's economic or strategic clout but also its ability to be a vast, diverse, and argumentative civil society. This vitality, rooted in disagreement, debate and intellectual freedom is what defines a truly robust democracy.

The erosion of this vitality has long-term consequences, including the alienation of a generation of students who once believed in the university as a space of exploration and growth, but now the evident discouragement of public intellectuals from speaking their conscience, and the undermining of the moral seriousness with which a nation historically addresses its internal complexities, has set in the steady decline of the very idea of democracy. Moreover, it sends a chilling message that intelligence must be policed, that critical thinking is unwelcome, and that freedom is conditional on obedience.

But there is hope

And yet, there is hope. History reminds us that the tide of suppression, however forceful, is always contested. Whether through protest movements, or the courage of individuals who refuse to be silenced, the spirit of free inquiry has always found ways to endure. Václav Havel, writing under the shadow of Soviet repression, reminded us that "living in truth" was itself a political act and a refusal to join in the collective lie.

In societies that valorise critical inquiry and unfettered debate, the capacity to confront and resolve complex challenges is significantly enhanced. A nuanced understanding of patriotism recognises the intrinsic value of constructive critique, acknowledging that loyalty to one's nation or institution is not predicated on unyielding conformity, but rather on a commitment to its betterment. The democratic ideals of freedom, justice, and equality are not merely aspirational, but are instead contingent upon the ability to challenge entrenched injustices and interrogate authority. When societies compromise academic freedom, they not only erode their moral authority, but also imperil their capacity for envisioning and implementing transformative change.

Rosa Luxemburg's words serve as a poignant reminder that freedom means little if it is reserved only for the majority or the loyalist. Real freedom, the kind that nurtures innovation, empathy and justice, begins with the courage to listen to those who speak differently. This capacity for receptivity to dissenting voices constitutes a litmus test of democracy's vitality, and its failure to meet this test has far-reaching and deleterious consequences for the polity.

At FTA's heart, the promise of Global Capacity Centres

Kishore Jayaraman

is OBE, India Chair, UK India Business Council (UKIBC)

As the United Kingdom and India move steadily toward signing of their historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA), there is growing recognition of the FTA's potential to redefine bilateral economic engagement. Among the most promising areas of collaboration is the rapidly evolving ecosystem of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) – a sector where India leads, and the U.K. can be a pivotal partner.

India is already home to more than 1,500 GCCs, employing over 1.9 million people and contributing significantly to the global innovation and digital transformation agendas of multinational corporations. Increasingly, British companies are looking to India not just as a cost-effective back office, but as a strategic partner for research and development, analytics, cybersecurity, and emerging tech solutions.

The FTA could be a catalyst for deeper engagement in this space. By easing regulatory barriers, facilitating smoother movement of professionals, and harmonising digital and data governance standards, the agreement can support the expansion of GCCs that serve U.K.-headquartered businesses – or leverage British expertise to serve global markets from India.

Much potential

The U.K.'s Foreign Secretary David Lammy visited India within weeks of his taking office, demonstrating commitment towards the partnership with the U.K. The Business and Trade Secretary, Jonathan Reynolds' visit ahead of resuming FTA negotiations, following suit. At the UK India Business Council (UKIBC), we think that there is real potential to further increase our trade, investment, and wider partnership. Prime Ministers Keir Starmer and Narendra Modi also had an extremely productive meeting at the G-20 Summit in Brazil, in 2024, agreeing to take the relationship to new heights.

From the U.K.'s perspective, the FTA is a timely opportunity to secure access to one of the world's fastest-growing digital economies, while reinforcing its global services and innovation footprint post-Brexit. For India, greater U.K. investment and collaboration in the GCC space aligns perfectly with its digital economy ambitions, skilling objectives, and goal of becoming a global hub for high-value services.

> The United Kingdom-India Free Trade Agreement could be a catalyst for deeper engagement in the GCCs, a rapidly evolving ecosystem

The UKIBC has long championed the idea that the future of trade lies not just in goods but also in the services, skills and technology that power the new global economy. The GCCs stand at the intersection of all three.

The FTA can pave the way for easier cross-border collaboration, robust intellectual property frameworks, and smart mobility solutions that allow talent to move where it is most needed.

A well-crafted agreement can also address the practical challenges businesses face such as double taxation, data localisation mandates and misaligned standards, that often inhibit the scaling of GCCs. Addressing these through the FTA, or individually, will send a strong signal to investors and businesses in both nations.

According to a white paper released by Deloitte India, the country is making strides in the global GCC game, as India-based GCCs have emerged as strategic hubs for multinational companies to manage complex global tax operations, including corporate tax, indirect tax, transfer pricing, and litigation,

India's current policy environment is highly conducive for GCC growth, even without a dedicated national GCC policy at the moment. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has formed an industry-led panel – including the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), Zinnov, KPMG, and Invest India – to design the national GCC framework outlined in Budget 2025. Its goal is to guide States in promoting GCCs, improving talent, infrastructure, innovation, and legal facilitation.

State government policies

Other than central government endeavours, we also see State governments rolling out landmark policies. Uttar Pradesh hosted its first "GCC Conclave" under Invest UP, bringing together policymakers and industry heavyweights (Microsoft, TCS, HCL, Standard Chartered). The event showcased U.P.'s infrastructure, incentives, and intent to host GCCs beyond National Capital Region cities, in Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur and Prayagraj.

In this context, the UKIBC recently held a closed-door consultation to bring together a distinguished group of leaders and experts to explore the expanding role of GCCs in driving innovation and economic growth in India. The group deliberated on a set of recommendations including global best practices from a governance perspective to help India achieve its economic ambitions set for GCCs. It also discussed these: whether there is a need for a dedicated national GCC policy now; whether organic growth from the past is best achieved in the absence of any such policies; or if having multiple State-level policies create unwanted competition instead of overall national progress. The need for honing talent diversity as well as skilfully managing the diversity of GCC's themselves, was also underscored.

Some of the legal hurdles and the market outlook was touched upon, with some practical experiences of Indian and U.K. companies being shared. Additionally, the overall impact of India's economic diplomacy efforts through FTAs on the Indian GCC ecosystem was touched on. These included aspects of how the U.K.-India FTA can be leveraged to help Indian GCCs climb up the global value chain, with a focus on talent diversity in terms of professional mobility across the two countries.

A knowledge corridor

As the two governments fine-tune the final provisions, industry leaders must continue to voice the importance of services, digital trade and mobility – the lifelines of modern commerce. GCCs, in particular, stand to gain from – and contribute to – this evolving partnership, shaping a resilient, knowledge-based corridor between the U.K. and India.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monsoon session

The monsoon session of Parliament shows signs of it being a stormy affair, with the Opposition prepared to raise pressing issues related to national security, electoral transparency and foreign affairs. The list of concerns is long and serious. Matters affecting the dignity of our armed forces, questions of sovereignty, and continuing instability in border States demand clarity from the highest office. Avoiding direct engagement only fuels speculation and public distrust.
However, responsibility does not rest solely with the ruling party. The Opposition must ensure that discussions remain focused, informed and respectful. National interest must prevail over political point-scoring. The days ahead will be watched to see whether this session moves forward or sinks into yet another cycle of unproductive confrontation.

Rukma Sharma,
Jalandhar, Punjab

Justice Varma should speak

Right from the time stacks of money were unearthed from the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, mystery shrouds the case. The unusual confidence exhibited by Justice Varma, stoutly challenging his indictment and now seeking to quash the impeachment recommendation, has baffled the public. Is there more to it than meets the eye? Was the money kept at the judge's residence for safe keeping? If Justice Varma is innocent, he should make an indisputable statement about who the real owner is. At stake is the credibility and the sanctity of the judiciary.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

V.S. Achuthanandan

V.S. Achuthanandan was a true Marxist idealogue and lived as a proletariat leader till the end. He was one of the rarest leaders to have struggled for the downtrodden. With his clean image, his political life was written in golden letters. His passing has created a void in the political spectrum of great leaders.

J. Radhakrishna Kurup,
Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The threat to India's 'great power' status

Kadira Pethiyagoda

Author, geopolitics expert at the University of Melbourne, former diplomat, and political advisor (@KPethiyagoda).

Despite U.S. President Donald Trump's claims of having vanquished Iran's enrichment programme, the threat of a U.S.-Israel-Iran war remains alive. A combination of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's legal problems, his government's regional agenda, and the neoconservative influence in the U.S. threaten to overwhelm Mr. Trump's instincts towards non-interventionist peace.

War would be disastrous for India's economic interests and harm its 'great power' ambitions. If Iran's government is toppled, U.S.-led unipolarity in West Asia would be cemented, precluding the ability of rising powers such as India to grow their strategic footprint. This touches on a fundamental schism between India and the West – Delhi's multipolar world vision. The Trump administration offers an opportunity to address this.

What Iran's defeat could mean

A restart of the Israel-Iran war with U.S. involvement poses some risk of regime change or Balkanization in Iran. This would dramatically alter the distribution of power in West Asia. There would remain no nation state that is both not U.S.-aligned and controls all of its territory (Ansar Allah does not control all Yemen). Regardless of how benign U.S. intentions towards India are, this would imperil the trajectory Delhi has been following for the last decade, of strengthening its strategic influence in the region. The negotiating power India held with Israel and Gulf States was underpinned by the fact that Delhi also engaged alternatively aligned states such as Syria and Iran. This has already decreased since President Bashar al-Assad's toppling and would nosedive if Iran's government is ousted.

All of India's West Asia energy imports would have to be sourced from governments dependent on U.S. security guarantees, rather than from the diverse mix Delhi draws on now.

All this would harm India's ability to rise as a great power. This is in part because reinforcing the strength of the existing global hegemon, the U.S., means a relative weakening of all rising powers. But it is also due to a fundamental clash in world visions between the American hegemon and rising India.

Before his Moscow visit, India's External Affairs Minister revealed the basis of this clash saying the meeting with Russia would discuss "...the building of a multipolar world order". By definition, this involves the displacement of U.S.-led unipolarity. This means that, on this crucial question, Washington's most important Asian partner shares common cause with China and Russia.

This underlying tension bubbled to the surface recently with Mr. Trump's threat, cheered on by NATO head Mark Rutte, to slap secondary sanctions of 100% on countries purchasing Russian oil, gas, or other strategic goods. Before this, when India commissioned INS Tamal, a warship manufactured by Russia, the U.K. paper, *The Telegraph*, ran the headline 'India is an enemy, not a friend or a neutral'. When it comes to fundamental questions of geopolitics, the corporate media in the West reflects the views of the foreign policy establishment.

A multipolar world order, in which India is one of the poles, constitutes one of the principal pillars of New Delhi's foreign policy. India's main motivation for supporting partnering with the U.S. – balancing against the China threat – does not outweigh the multipolarity goal. This shapes India's interests, not only in relation to Iran and to West Asia, but also the New Cold War more broadly and the hot wars that will in future spring from it. It has been most clear in India's defiance of Western demands regarding isolating Russia.

Going forward, the multipolarity goal will play a greater role in informing Delhi's policy choices, thus inhibiting actions that reinforce U.S.-led unipolarity. Therefore, even given the existing strategic autonomy preference, it looks *increasingly less likely* that India will align with the Western bloc. Moreover, Delhi likely perceives its clashing worldview with Washington as amplifying U.S. and Western offensive intentions towards India.

Path to peace

On Iran, India should urge restraint. This can include highlighting that disruption of West Asian oil supplies would weaken India relative to China, which is less dependent on imports – thus harming U.S. interests in Asia. It may also involve quid pro quo. As seen in relation to U.S. attempts to isolate Russia over Ukraine, where India sits on any conflict can impact the collective West's interests.

More fundamentally, India should impress on Washington that the U.S. and its allies can best serve their security and economic interests by accepting global multipolarity. When considering the alternatives of kinetic great power war, or (though less likely) Chinese hegemony over Asia and Africa, multipolarity is far from the worst scenario from the West's view.

The present moment offers possibility in this regard. Despite the recent dithering on detente with Russia, Mr. Trump knows he was elected on a compatible foreign policy platform of non-interventionism. Secretary of State Marco Rubio acknowledged early on that the world is moving towards multipolarity. Polls show that Americans, particularly Mr. Trump's base, view the country's vital interests as homeland and near abroad-centred. This translates to tolerance of other poles maintaining hegemony within their own regions.

As the most powerful independent state that the U.S. regards as a partner, Indian suasion would carry weight.

India should urge the U.S. to tolerate Iran in West Asia and accept multipolarity globally

Skeletons in the closet

The hope is that the SIT will find answers to the 'mysterious deaths' in Dharmastala

STATE OF PLAY

Raghava M.
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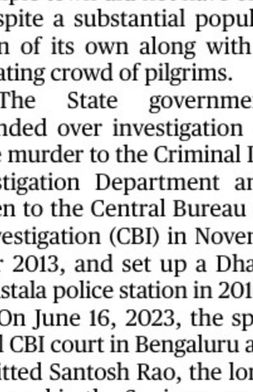
With a former sanitation worker claiming to have buried many bodies in Dharmastala, about 80 kilometres from Mangaluru in coastal Karnataka, discussions on the "mysterious deaths" of people in the temple town have gained traction yet again.

After some dithering, the State government on July 19 set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by Director General of Police (Internal Security) Pronab Mohanty, to investigate the claims of the sanitation worker.

The complainant claimed to have worked in Dharmastala between 1995 and 2014. He said that during his service period, he buried men and women and also minors who had been raped and murdered. He said that there were "powerful people" behind the crimes who had coerced him to bury the bodies. He claimed that he fled the place along with his family members when a member of his own family was sexually assaulted. The worker said that he had chosen to tell the story now out of sheer remorse. He also asked that more than 100 bodies he buried be exhumed, identified, and given a decent farewell.

Accusing the jurisdictional police of delay in initiating the process of exhuming the bodies, advocates representing the sanitation worker, activists, and public intellectuals, including former Supreme Court Judge V. Gopala Gowda, urged the government to set up the SIT.

There has been chatter about "mysterious deaths" in Dharmastala for more than



five decades. Some even contended that many of the dead were devotees who ended their lives in the hope of "reaching heaven".

Outrage over the deaths grew louder in October 2012 after a second year pre-university student, Soujanya, was abducted, raped, and murdered. The fury transformed into a movement seeking justice for Soujanya. In parallel, temple authorities also held demonstrations to rule out their involvement in Soujanya's murder or in any of the earlier deaths.

Protesters also demanded a separate police station in Dharmastala. Surprisingly, the temple town did not have one despite a substantial population of its own along with a floating crowd of pilgrims.

The State government handed over investigation of the murder to the Criminal Investigation Department and then to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in November 2013, and set up a Dharmastala police station in 2016.

On June 16, 2023, the special CBI court in Bengaluru acquitted Santosh Rao, the lone accused in the Soujanya murder case. Earlier, based on a plea by Soujanya's parents, the court conducted an inquiry into allegations against three persons associated with the temple in the abduction, rape, and murder of Soujanya. It found no substance in the allegations. The CBI court concluded that the preliminary investigation had been shoddy and directed the State Acquittal Committee to initiate action against erring police officers and the official who conducted the post-mortem.

Soujanya's parents and Rao filed separate appeals before the Karnataka High Court seeking de novo/reinvestigation of the case. Turning down the plea for reinvestigation, the Division Bench of the Karnataka High Court, on August 30, 2024, said that it was "doubtful that evidence that could not be collected at the golden hour is still available." Also pointing to the bungled initial investigation, the Court directed the State government to expedite the process of taking action against erring officers, and said Rao was at liberty to initiate independent action for compensation.

Soujanya's mother, uncle, and activists continue to demand that the government do all it can to trace the real culprits. They created a WhatsApp group where members have been asked to keep up the demand to trace the real accused in the murder case.

A few days after the sanitation worker registered his complaint in the Dharmastala police station, Sujatha Bhat, a former CBI employee and the mother of Ananya Bhat, a medical student who went missing in 2004 in Dharmstala, approached the police. She sought their help in finding out whether Ananya's body was among those allegedly buried by the sanitation worker. If she finds her daughter's remains, she will finally be able to conduct the last rites, she told Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police K. Arun.

All eyes are now on the SIT to provide the answers to the "mysterious deaths" in Dharmastala.

Boys continue to outnumber girls in private schools

In the northern and western States, the share of girls enrolled in any school is lower than India's average of 48.1%

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Over the past decade, the share of private schools and the proportion of boys and girls enrolled in them have both increased across India, likely reinforcing each other. However, the share of girls attending private schools remains considerably lower than that of boys. In other words, while parents increasingly prefer private schooling, a considerable share of them still shows a slight preference for enrolling their sons over their daughters. Also, a relatively low number of girls are enrolled compared to boys in schools across northern and western India.

Chart 1 shows the share of government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. The share of government schools has fallen from 74.2% to 69.1%, whereas the share of private schools has increased from 17.2% to 22.5%.

Chart 2 shows the share of students enrolled in government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. The share of children enrolled in government schools has fallen from 57.3% to 51.4%, whereas the share of private schools has increased from 28.2% to 36.3%.

Chart 3 shows the gender-wise share of students enrolled in government and private schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. For instance, in 2023-24, 54% of girls studied in government schools and 33% in private schools, while 49% of all boys studied in government schools and 39% in private schools.

Chart 4 shows the State-wise and gender-wise share of students enrolled in any school. In the northern and western States, the share of girls enrolled in any school is lower than India's average of 48.1%.

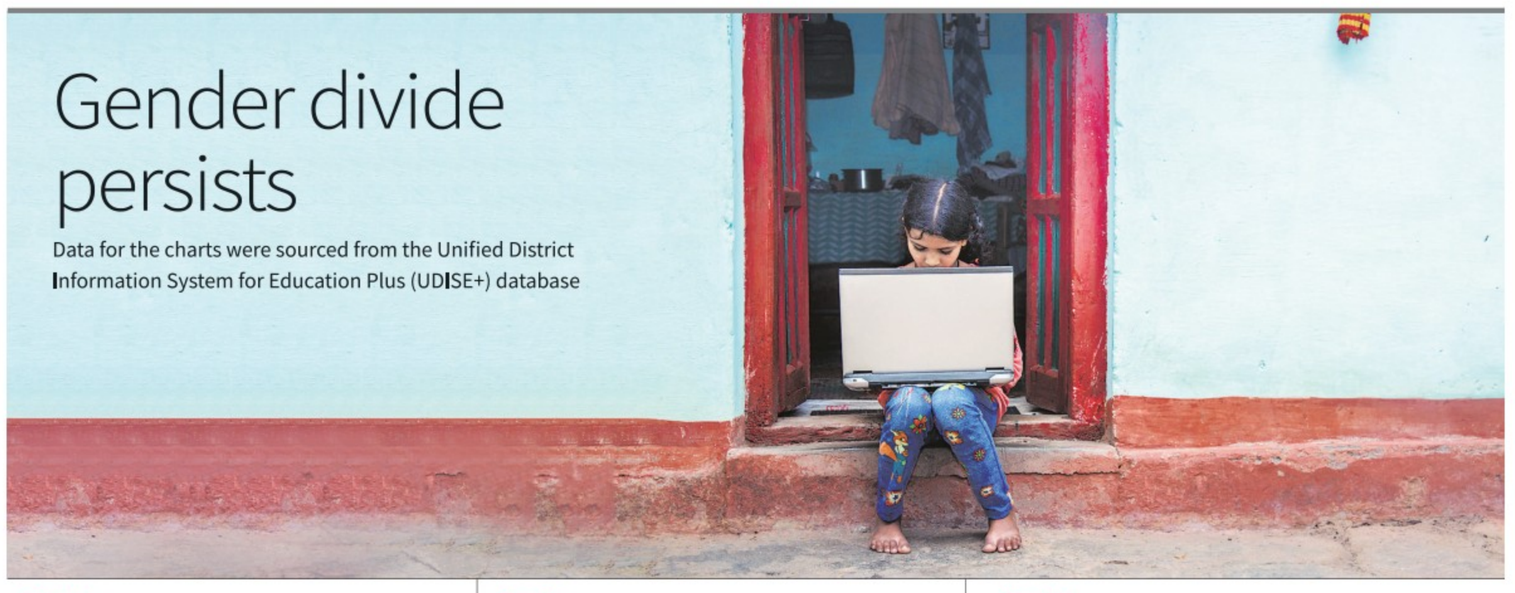

Gender divide persists
Data for the charts were sourced from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) database

Chart 1: The share of government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. Figures in %

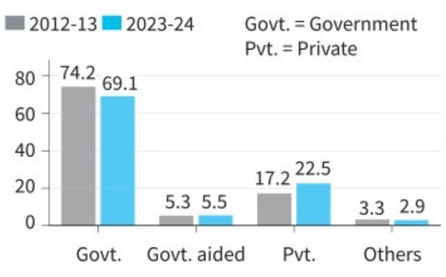


Chart 2: The share of **students enrolled** in government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. Figures in %

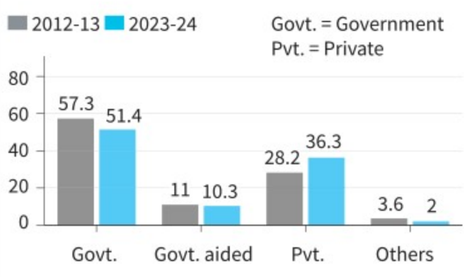


Chart 3: The **gender-wise share of students** enrolled in government and private schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. Figures in %

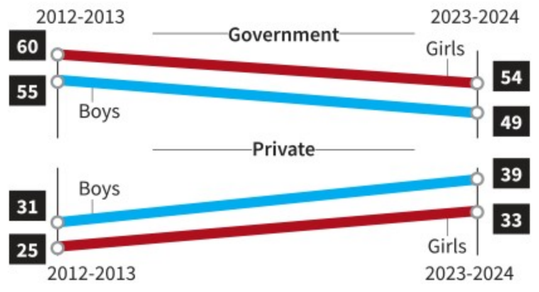


Chart 4: The State-wise and gender-wise share of students enrolled in any school in 2023-24

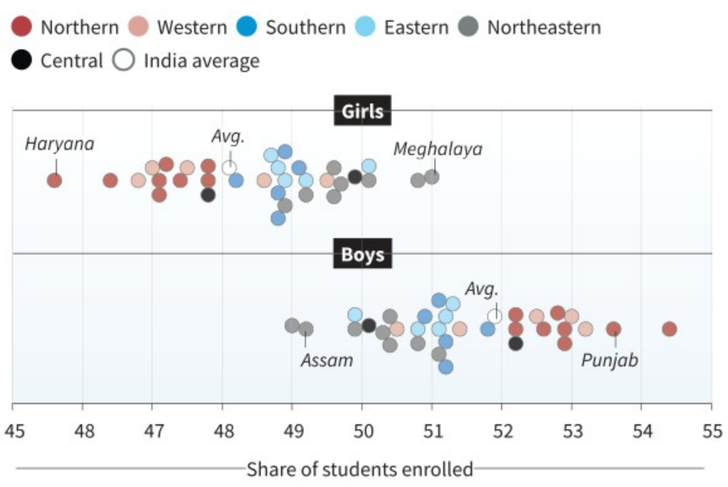
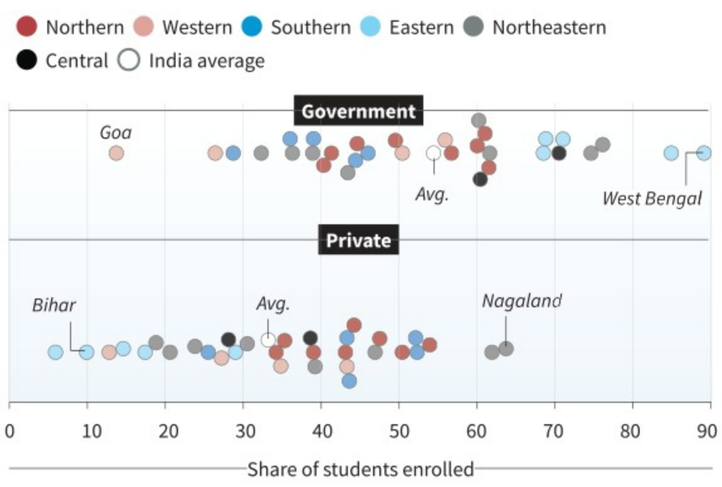


Chart 5: The State-wise and gender-wise share of girls enrolled in government and private schools in 2023-24



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 22, 1975

Antique dealer held in Bombay for thefts in T Nadu

Bombay, July 21: A notorious idol lifter and a hawker-turned millionaire, Bahadur Singh Teja Singh Lama, who was running two workshops in Bombay for manufacturing fake idols, was arrested by the Bombay Police under COFEPOSA yesterday under orders of the Maharashtra Government.

Bahadur Singh Teja Singh had been earlier ordered by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mr. S.C. Kotwal, to be released on a bail of Rs. 5 lakhs in connection with a case involving the theft of several idols from South Indian temples worth Rs. 1.5 crores.

Following this the Additional Commissioner of Police, Mr. R.S. Kulkarni, moved the State Government for his arrest under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA).

Bahadur Singh was running a moderu air conditioned emporium "Kalimpong Art House" in a posh locality in Central Bombay, and two workshops called Handicraft Emporiums ostensibly for selling handicrafts, the Police said.

But actually the workshops were manufacturing replicas of priceless South Indian temple idols which were to be substituted for the original idols with the connivance of temple priests. The original idols were in turn exported at fabulous prices, the police said.

An Inspector and two Sub Inspectors of the Tamil Nadu Police who had come here to take away Bahadur Singh returned to Madras as they had been directed by the Bombay Police to get a Magistrate's order for taking him.

Bahadur Singh has now been lodged in the Nasik Jail.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 22, 1925

British doctors and press articles

According to the London correspondent of "The Statesman" the British Medical Association has decided to lift the ban that has hitherto forbidden doctors to contribute articles to the newspapers under their own names.

The British press describes this decision as a notable landmark in the progress of doctors, denoting their emancipation from the old-time exclusion and aloofness.

From Page One

Dhankhar submits his resignation to President

As Vice-President, Mr. Dhankhar also spoke out freely on issues that mattered to him. Hailing from a rural, farming background, he spoke out for farmers and the need for a open dialogue as fresh protests by farmers came up in December 2024.

Among the decisions pending on Mr. Dhankhar's table was the impeachment motion moved by 54 Opposition MPs in December last year against Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shekhar Yadav for allegedly making a hate speech.

Senior Congress leader and party's chief whip in the Upper House, Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Dhankhar's resignation was "inexplicable" and "shocking. In a post on X, he said, "I was with him alongside a number of other MPs till around 5 PM today and had spoken to him over the phone at 7:30 PM."

He said while Mr. Dhankhar must give topmost priority to his health, there was far more to his totally unexpected resignation than meets the eye.

V.S. Achuthanandan passes away at 101

Mr. Achuthanandan was actively involved in the militant Left agitation against the colonial government in 1946, which culminated in the storied and tragic Punnapra-Vayalar uprising. He went underground but was arrested and tortured in police custody.

Born into a family of agricultural workers in Punnapra, Alappuzha, in 1923, Mr. Achuthanandan faced numerous trials and tribulations, including the daily deprivations of poverty alongside distressing personal and political struggles. He lost his parents early, his mother to smallpox, and was initiated into the freedom movement at 16 by the pioneering communist leader P. Krishna Pillai.

Mr. Achuthanandan often joked that he would immerse himself in a temple pond until the only set of clothes he owned dried on the steps. The temple priest fed him leftovers of puja rice, and he briefly apprenticed as a tailor.

One of CPI(M) founders

In 1964, Mr. Achuthanandan left the national council of the undivided Communist Party of India to become one of the founding members of the breakaway Communist Party of India (Marxist). Later, during the Emergency, the government jailed him.

He had officiated as the CPI(M) State secretary. But he was not always a stickler for iron-clad party discipline as Chief Minister. In 2009, the CPI(M) expelled him from the party's Polit Bureau for defying the party State secretariat.

In 2012, as Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Achuthanandan defied the party's diktat. He called on the wife of slain CPI(M) dissident and Revolutionary Marxist Party leader T.P. Chandrasekharan, K. K. Rema. The Congress used the visit to assail the CPI(M), which it blamed for the killing.

Mr. Achuthanandan was a dogmatic communist who rarely retreated from ideological moorings. However, his critics have blamed him for allegedly being out of tune with the harsh realities of neoliberalism, accusing party colleagues of right-wing deviation and "abetting factionalism".

On his 100th birthday, CPI(M) leader and dramatist Pirappancode Murali, a former MLA, sought to place Mr. Achuthanandan in a Left-historical context. "Mr. Achuthanandan is the last of the communists who was active in politics during the life and times of Stalin, Mao, Ho Chi Minh, Che Guevara, and much beyond," he said.

As a rationalist and atheist, Mr. Achuthanandan had a candid take on faith. When he was Chief Minister during the 2006-2011 period, a school student playfully queried Mr. Achuthanandan about his favourite Hindu god. "Like all of us, the tales of gods absorb me. But, like everybody else, I wonder whether they exist and, if so, which plane they inhabit," he replied.

Mr. Achuthanandan's wife, K. Vasumathy, and their daughter, V.V. Asha, son, Mr. Arun Kumar, and grandchildren survive him.

'Exclusion from rolls won't affect citizenship'

The final roll will be published on September 30, 2025. "Even after the publication of the final roll, new electors can be enrolled up to the last date of nominations of the forthcoming Bihar elections. Any apprehension of huge disenfranchisement is misleading and non-existent," the EC assured.

Further, the EC said electors whose names already feature in the electoral rolls of Bihar in 2003, when the last intensive revision was held, were exempted from furnishing documents to prove their eligibility. "They are only required to file the partially pre-filled enumeration form along with the extract of the 2003 roll," it said.

Though the Supreme Court had asked the EC to consider including Aadhaar, voter ID and ration cards in the list of 11 indicative documents to register voters, the EC said they cannot be accepted as "standalone documents" for the purpose of SIR.

"Aadhaar is merely a proof of identity. The card itself carries a disclaimer that it is not a proof of citizenship," the affidavit said. The poll body pointed to the "widespread issuance of bogus ration cards", making the document untrustworthy. As for Electors Photo Identity Card, it reasoned that they were prepared on the basis of electoral rolls.

Mamata announces launch of 'language movement' against 'linguistic terrorism'

At Trinamool's Martyrs' Day rally in Kolkata, the West Bengal Chief Minister also asserts that she will not allow any special intensive revision in Bengal on the lines in Bihar

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressing a rally in Kolkata on Monday. DEBASISH BHADURI

Intensifying her attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the 'Bengali asmita (pride)' issue, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced the launch of a "language movement" in protest against the 'attack' on Bengali language and detention of migrants, thereby setting the stage for the 2026 Assembly polls in the State.

"If required, there will be another language movement against the BJP's terrorism on the Bengali language... From July 27, a movement will start in Bengal in protest against the attack on Bengalis, Bengali language and 'Bhasha santras' (linguistic terrorism)," the Chief Minister said, addressing a large gathering of party supporters at the Trinamool Congress's (TMC) annual Martyrs' Day rally.

Ms. Banerjee directed her party supporters to organise marches and meetings about the violence and disrespect shown towards the Bengali language starting 27 July, till the Assembly poll in 2026.

Accusing the Centre of unleashing terror on Bengali language, the TMC chief alleged that this was a targeted harassment in the name of suspicion. While the TMC came to power in 2021 riding on the campaign of "*Bangla nijer mein ke chaye* (Bengal wants its own daughter)", at the Martyrs Day rally the Chief Minister made it clear that Bengali language and identity will be her poll plank for next year's Assembly poll.

The Chief Minister also asserted that she would not allow any special intensive revision (SIR) in West Bengal, something which is being carried out in neighbouring Bihar.

"I respect the ECI chair, but over 40 lakh voters' names were removed in Bihar. Now, you plan to do the same in Bengal. If you try that here, we will gherao your offices. We will organise a massive protest. We will not allow you to strike off names and push people into detention camps," she said.

Ms. Banerjee mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that the Union government arrests people for speaking in Bengali and "then you speak two words in Bengali using a teleprompter and think that you will win people's hearts". The Prime Minister at a public rally at Durgapur on July 21 had said that "Bengali asmita was paramount to the BJP".

ED crossing all limits, says SC on issue of summons to lawyers

A narrative is built against the Central agency even before the SC takes up a case, Solicitor General argues

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Monday observed the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) "is crossing all limits" even as Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta urged the Supreme Court to not make any "generalised" observations that may fuel a concerted effort, already under way, to build a narrative against the Central agency.

The hearing was on a *suo motu* case registered by the court following summons issued by the ED against two senior advocates, Arvind Datar and Pratap Venugopal, for a professional advice they had given a client.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani took a milder tone, saying the ED has been apprised of the fact that "what they had done is certainly wrong". He said the summons had been later withdrawn. "Your officers are crossing all limits," Chief Justice Gavai addressed Mr. Venkataramani.

Mr. Mehta intervened to note that though the two lawyers should not have been summoned in this case, there was a danger that such observations from the court would be misconstrued and used against the ED as an institution. "But we have found the ED overstepping in many cases," the CJI responded to Mr. Mehta.

In many cases, the narrative-building start even before the Supreme Court hears the matter. This is done deliberately," the Solicitor-General argued.

The CJI indicated the court was also aware of the ground realities in ED cases with political overtones. "There are cases in which the ED files appeals even after the High Court has passed well-reasoned orders. This is done only for the sake of filing an appeal," Chief Justice Gavai pointed out.

The court has set the matter for further hearing on July 29.

EC shares list of voters who didn't submit forms or 'not found' with Bihar parties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Roll revision: Enumeration forms have been received from over 90% voters in the State, the poll body said. ANI

The Election Commission of India (EC), which has undertaken a special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, on Monday said that political parties in the State had been provided with detailed lists of 29.62 lakh electors whose enumeration forms had not been received so far and also of nearly 43.93 lakh electors who were not found at their addresses.

Chief Electoral Officers (CEO), Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) and Booth-level Officers (BLO) have held meetings with the representatives of all 12 major political parties, and the parties have also been requested to connect with these remaining electors, through their district presidents and nearly 1.5 lakh booth-level agents (BLAs).

"This is to ensure that the entire election machinery, including the political parties, works together in a mission mode so that no eligible elector is left out from the draft electoral roll to be published on August 1," the EC said.

Out of the 7,89,69,844 total electors, the forms have been received from 90.67% voters; 5.56% have not been found at their addresses; 2.1% are probably deceased; 0.95% are enrolled at multiple places; 2.3% have been found to have probably permanently shifted, and 0.01% are not traceable, the poll body said in a statement.

The EC said that Bihar has also become the first State in the country to achieve the target of one polling station for 1,200 electors or less.

The last date for submission of enumeration forms is July 25. Any member of the public can file objections for additions/deletions/rectification in the draft electoral rolls.

SC non-committal on listing of plea seeking FIR in judge case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Monday asked a petitioner seeking an urgent hearing of a plea to register a first information report (FIR) on allegations regarding the discovery of burnt cash from the residential premises of a High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma, whether he wanted his petition to be dismissed now.

The CJI neither committed to an early hearing nor visibly appeared in court to dismiss the petition filed by the petitioner-advocate Mathews Nedumpara.

In his petition, the third in a series, the lawyer criticised the Centre for not initiating "an effective and meaningful investigation" into the allegations.

An in-house inquiry committee had submitted a confidential report on the alleged incident in early May, affirming the presence of cash and recommending the removal of Justice Varma from office. The then CJI, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, had forwarded the report to the President and the Prime Minister to commence the processes of a removal motion in Parliament. Justice Varma has himself approached the Supreme Court, questioning the legality of the in-house inquiry report.

Mr. Nedumpara's plea has coincided with both Justice Varma approaching the apex court and the opening of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

In his first petition, the court had asked Mr. Nedumpara to wait for the in-house inquiry report.

"After the panel submitted its report, no FIR was registered. The petitioner filed yet another writ petition and was asked by the court to approach the President and the Prime Minister. To the petitioner's knowledge, no FIR has been registered till date," Mr. Nedumpara submitted.

AI flight veers off runway in Mumbai amid heavy rain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid heavy rain in Mumbai airport, an Air India aircraft veered off the runway while making a landing on Monday morning.

The Airbus A320 aircraft is now grounded, Air India said. The primary runway at the airport was shut, and an alternative runway was activated, according to a statement from Mumbai International Airport Limited.

Photos procured through industry sources show that the incident has caused damage to the engine cowling, suggesting ingestion of debris, as well as the trailing edge of a flap on one of the wings. There is also evidence of grass and mud on a section of the aircraft's wing and the nose wheel area.

The incident took place when the Air India flight from Kochi to Mumbai made a landing at 9.27 a.m. on Monday morning. The aircraft taxied safely to the gate, where passengers and crew were able to disembark, Air India's statement said.

Past incidents

Mumbai has seen similar incidents in the past during rain. In September 2023, a business jet (Learjet 45) from Vishakapatnam skidded off the runway after landing.

In July 2019, a SpiceJet Boeing 737 flight from Jaipur overshot the main runway on landing at Mumbai airport. It took nearly two days to remove the aircraft, resulting in closure of the primary runway for nearly two days.

Similar incidents in Mangaluru and Surat had forced the regulator to issue a circular to airlines. It required airlines to ensure sufficiently trained crew to be deployed for flights in adverse weather conditions, carry out risk assessment, and ensure that the crew were well aware of "the aircraft's limitations and take-off/landing performance calculations during adverse weather operations."

CAG report flags lapses amounting to ₹573 cr. in Railways

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) flagged lapses amounting to ₹573 crore in the Railways as detailed in the 'Union Government (Railways) – Compliance Audit Report' tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday.

The report contains 25 audit observations including shortfalls in revenue recovery, and execution of projects across multiple zones. The instances mentioned in this report came to notice in the course of test audit conducted up to financial year 2022-23.

One of the most expensive lapses for Railways was the Northern Railway's non-compliance with Railway Board directives to recover licence fee at the rate of 6% of land value which led to short recovery of licence fee of ₹148.61 crore.

Another costly shortfall involved nine railway zones being unable to recover ₹55.51 crore.

The report notes that non-realisation of shunting charges for shunting activity by using railway engines at Bina Siding of East Central Railway resulted in non-realisation of ₹50.77 crore.

Plans by Southern Railway to replace 28 Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) coaches resulted in ineffective and deficient assets at a cost of ₹27.91 crore as the coaches were were not put to effective use even after three years of manufacturing, the report said.

₹50 lakh relief to J&K police constable tortured in custody

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a judgment on Monday, directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take over the probe into the custodial torture of a Jammu and Kashmir Police constable, who suffered genital mutilation at the hands of his colleagues.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta directed the Jammu and Kashmir government to pay Khursheed Ahmad Chohan a compensation of ₹50 lakh for the "life-debilitating injuries he suffered while in the custody of his fellow state actors".

The court directed the Central agency to conduct the investigation and arrest the perpetrators.

The alleged incident took place in 2023, when Mr. Chohan was called by the Deputy Superintendent of Police in Kupwara to report to the office of the Senior Superintendent a couple of days later in connection with a narcotics issue. When Mr. Chohan reached this office, he was detained and tortured. He was taken to the hospital in a comatose condition.

Mr. Chohan's wife appealed to the senior police officers to register a case; however they had turned a deaf ear, she stated.

An FIR was meanwhile registered against her husband.

Her appeal to the State High Court failed. The High Court gave the case to the very police officer who had issued the signal to Mr. Chohan to go to Kupwara. The High Court had refused to intervene in the FIR lodged against him.

This outcome had led Mr. Chohan to move the Supreme Court. He sought the registration of a criminal case against the police officers who tortured him, transfer of the case to the CBI, and quashing of the FIR against him.

Justice Mehta, who authored the judgment in the case, granted him all three prayers.

Plane crash probe will be transparent, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The probe into the Air India crash of June 12 will look at facts and stand by the truth, which will be known only when the final report is out, while the media reports on the preliminary findings were "their own viewpoint", Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu said in Parliament on Monday.

"The way we are seeing the investigation is through facts. We want to stand by the truth, not what is happening with the pilots, or Boeing, or Air India. We want to find out what exactly happened, which will only be known when the final report is placed," Mr. Naidu said in the Rajya Sabha.

The Minister rejected national and international news reports as "media narrative... promoting own viewpoint".

The probe by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau into the Boeing 787-8 accident that left 260 dead would be "transparent" and "unbiased", he assured MPs.

In response to a question from MP John Brittas on whether any help had been taken from outside India for extracting data from the black box, the Minister said that nearly ₹9 crore had been spent on setting up 'a black box lab', which was inaugurated in April.

Parliament begins process for Justice Varma's impeachment

63 Opposition members sign notice submitted to Rajya Sabha Chairman, while notice to Lok Sabha Speaker receives bipartisan backing, with 152 members, including Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, giving their signatures

Sandeep Phukan
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Seeking action: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla receiving a notice from MPs in New Delhi on Monday for the removal of the Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma. PTI

The process to remove Justice Yashwant Varma from office was set in motion on Monday, with members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha submitting notices to the presiding officers of their respective Houses, and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankhar taking note of the move.

While the notice submitted to Mr. Dhankhar had signatures of 63 Opposition members, the one submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla received bipartisan backing, with 152 members, including Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, signing the notice.

The signatories to the notice in the Lok Sabha included BJP leaders Ravi Shankar Prasad and Anurag Thakur, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) member Supriya Sule, Congress leaders K.C. Venugopal and K. Suresh, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader T.R. Baalu, Revolutionary Socialist Party member N.K. Premachandran, and Indian Union Muslim League member E.T. Mohammed Basheer.

However, none from the Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party signed the notice for removal of the High Court judge.

Justice Varma's responsibilities were taken away and he was transferred from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court after burnt currency notes were found at his official residence in Delhi on March 14.

A notice for the removal of a judge has to be signed by no fewer than 100 members in the Lok Sabha and 50 in the Rajya Sabha.

The motion can either be accepted or rejected by the Speaker or the Chairman.

Stating that he had received notices for removal of Justice Varma, Mr. Dhankar said, "It is signed by more than 50 members of the Council of States and thus, meets the numerical requirement of signing by Members of Parliament for setting in motion a process for removal of a High Court judge."

When he asked Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal whether a similar notice was submitted in the Lok Sabha, the Minister replied that 152 Lower House members had submitted a similar notice to the Speaker.

Setting up a committee

The Rajya Sabha Chairman informed the House that according to the Judges (Inquiry) Act, when notices of a motion are submitted on the same day in both the Houses of Parliament, a committee to examine the charges levelled against the judge will be constituted jointly by the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

The Act also states that no inquiry committee shall be constituted unless the motion has been admitted in both Houses.

"The Secretary-General will take the necessary steps in this direction," the Rajya Sabha Chairman announced.

A committee comprising a senior judge of the Supreme Court, a sitting Chief Justice of a High Court, and a distinguished jurist will then probe the charges levelled against Justice Varma. It will be asked to come out with a report in three months.

The inquiry report will be tabled in Parliament, followed by a discussion in both Houses, after which there will be voting on the motion for the removal of Justice Varma.

In a post on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said 63 Opposition members had submitted the notice to the Rajya Sabha chairman for removal of Justice Varma.

"Today 63 Rajya Sabha MPs belonging to various Opposition parties submitted a notice of motion to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma under the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968. A similar motion for the removal of Justice Shekhar Yadav had been submitted to the Chairman Rajya Sabha way back on Dec 13, 2024," he said in his post on X.

Mentioning the notice for removal of Justice Shekhar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court, Mr. Dhankhar said an enquiry revealed that a member, whose signature was found twice on the notice, had denied signing it two times.

"That process is under progress. I will get an update and come back to the House," he said.

House panel report on Income Tax Bill tabled in Lok Sabha

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

It retains provisions allowing tax officials to forcibly access social media, private email

The Parliamentary Select Committee appointed to review the new Income Tax Bill, 2025 proposed by the government has retained the provisions in the new Bill empowering tax officials to access, forcibly if necessary, the social media accounts and private emails of people they are conducting search and seizure operations on.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in February. It was then sent to a Select Committee, chaired by Baijayant Panda, for a review.

The government on Monday tabled the 4,575-page report in the Lok Sabha.

The Bill's expanded scope of powers given to tax officials during search and seizure operations has drawn criticism and calls for change, including from the experts the Select Committee consulted during its review.

Under the Bill, if a person is found to be in possession or control of any books of account, or other documents and information maintained digitally, on computer systems, or stored electronically, then they must provide the designated income tax officer "reasonable technical and other assistance (including access code, by whatever name called) as may be necessary" to enable the officer to inspect "any information, electronic records and communication or data contained in or available on such computer systems".

Further, the Bill says the authorised officer can gain access to these electronic systems by "overriding the access code to any said computer system, or virtual digital space, where the access code thereof is not available".

Raised red flags

According to the report, the stakeholders the committee consulted during its examination of the Bill raised red flags regarding these provisions.

The committee, however, has argued that the provisions in the new Bill are necessary and, therefore, suggested no changes to them. "Various incriminating evidences and material are found/seized from electronic records including WhatsApp communications, emails, etc," it said. "In most of the cases of search operation the taxpayers do not share the password/login credential of online forums/portals/e-mail accounts, etc."

Monsoon Session a 'Vijay Utsav' for Operation Sindoor: Prime Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opening remarks: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the media ahead of the Monsoon Session. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday likened the current Monsoon Session of Parliament to a "Vijay Utsav", referring to the armed forces achieving "100% of their objectives" in Operation Sindoor. He expressed his hope that MPs too would articulate the same sentiment.

Mr. Modi included this in his customary remarks at the start of a Parliament session. The Opposition has demanded a discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

Lauding the multi-party delegations that visited world capitals after the cessation of hostilities under Operation Sindoor, Mr. Modi, in a reference to Pakistan, said it was for "removing the veil from the real masters of terror".

"In Operation Sindoor, the Indian armed forces achieved the objectives that were laid out 100%. The armed forces, under 22 minutes, as part of Operation Sindoor, hit the masters of terrorism in their homes and reduced their hideouts to rubble," he said.

'Military capability'

Mr. Modi expressed confidence that MPs would articulate in one voice "these feelings that will strengthen India's military capability, inspire the people, and will also give a boost to 'Made in India' defence capabilities". The brutal massacre in Pahalgam had shocked the entire world and had drawn global attention to terrorism and its epicentre, Mr. Modi said.

Referring to his government's strong action against Naxalism, resulting in its shrinking footprint, he said it reflected "that our Constitution is winning."

"With the objective of uprooting Naxalism, the security forces are moving ahead with a new enthusiasm," Mr. Modi said.

He said that when his government had taken office, India had been a part of the "fragile five", but was now moving forward towards becoming the third biggest economy in the world.

Opposition demands answers from PM in Rajya Sabha, stages a walkout

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during the Monsoon Session on Monday. ANI

The Rajya Sabha was briefly adjourned in the first hour of the first day of the Monsoon Session after an Opposition uproar over the Pahalgam terror attack and U.S. President Donald Trump's claims on ceasefire during Operation Sindoor, which the Leader of the Opposition, Mallikarjun Kharge, said was "humiliating" for the country.

Mr. Kharge, along with several Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha, had submitted adjournment notices (under Rule 267) for a discussion on the terror attack and Operation Sindoor after suspending the listed business of the day.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, the Congress president made a case for a two-day debate on the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor, alleged security lapses and foreign policy. "The Prime Minister should answer," he demanded.

He said that the terrorists who carried out the attack had "neither been caught nor killed till date".

"The government should also clarify its stand on the statement of U.S. President Donald Trump, because he has claimed not once but 24 times that he got the ceasefire done. This is humiliating for the country," he said.

Leader of the House and Union Minister J.P. Nadda asserted that the government was ready to discuss all issues related to Operation Sindoor.

House Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar assured the Opposition MPs that he would ensure a full-fledged discussion. He also admitted a motion moved by the BJP's Bengal MP Samik Bhattacharya under Rule 167 on the issue.

Mr. Dhankhar said he would discuss the issue with leaders of various parties, as he adjourned the House proceedings briefly till noon, amid an uproar by the Opposition.

When the House met at noon for the scheduled Question Hour, the Congress MPs again raised the issue, and later staged a walkout from the House in protest.

Govt. agrees to 16-hour discussion on Operation Sindoor and Pahalgam terror attack amid uproar in Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Done deal: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaking in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday. ANI

Amid repeated disruptions in the Lok Sabha on the first day of the Monsoon Session over the Opposition's demand to have a discussion on Operation Sindoor and Pahalgam terror attack, the Business Advisory Committee on Monday agreed to have a 16-hour special discussion on India's military operation against Pakistan-based terrorist outfits after the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Opposition parties and the ruling NDA, however, differed on the timing of the debate, with the Opposition members insisting that the discussion should start immediately and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should reply.

The government's floor managers pointed out that the Prime Minister would be travelling abroad on Wednesday and that was why they wanted to prioritise the passage of the Income Tax Bill this week.

Three days

The special discussion on Operation Sindoor and Pahalgam attack will be spread over three days and will not be under any specific rule, said a source who attended the BAC meeting.

At the BAC meeting, the Opposition members protested that the government's agenda for the week did not mention their demand on Operation Sindoor. Some Opposition members called for a debate on the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar and the situation in Manipur.

"The government managers have not given us any commitment that the Prime Minister will reply but they did say that the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Defence Minister will all be present in the House," an Opposition leader told *The Hindu*.

'Double standard'

Accusing the government of double standard, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said, "The government is listing its Bills but is not ready to prioritise an issue on which the entire nation wants to hear from Parliament."

The Lok Sabha witnessed its first disruption and was adjourned soon after obituary references were made on the floor of the House. Opposition members trooped into the well of the House and demanded a discussion since members had given adjournment notices on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

Speaker Om Birla said he would allow members to raise their issues after the Question Hour but the Opposition did not relent, prompting him to adjourn the House until noon.

When the House reassembled, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh assured the Opposition members that the government was ready to have a long discussion on all issues that the Speaker agreed to. "Whatever time they need to discuss, the government is ready to answer all questions," he said. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said "to raise slogans and not let the House function on the first day of the Monsoon session is unacceptable".

The House was adjourned for the day at 4 p.m. as the Opposition continued to stall the proceedings over their demand.

Opposition should be allowed to speak in the House, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

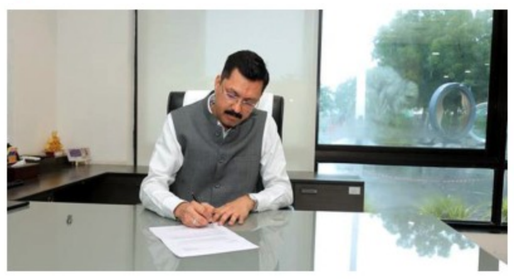
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Monday that it was his right as the Leader of the Opposition to speak in the House, but he was not being allowed to speak, while Ministers could make their statements.

Mr. Gandhi made these remarks to presspersons after the Lok Sabha witnessed an uproar over the Opposition's demand for a discussion on Operation Sindoor and the Pahalgam terror attack, on the first day of the Monsoon Session.

"The question is that the Defence Minister and their (the BJP) people are allowed to speak, but if someone from the Opposition wants to say something, he is not allowed," Mr. Gandhi said, adding, "I am the Leader of the Opposition, it is my right [to speak in Parliament]. I am never allowed to speak."

This was a "new approach" towards an Opposition leader, Mr. Gandhi said. "The debate will happen if they allow it...convention states that if people from the government say something, we (the Opposition) should also be given space. We wanted to say two words, but the Opposition was not allowed," he said.

INBRIEF



IAS officer Sanjay Kaul takes charge as head of GIFT City

Senior IAS officer of Kerala cadre Sanjay Kaul on Monday took charge as the Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), India's first International Financial Services Centre and flagship Smart City project in Gandhinagar. Mr. Kaul succeeds retired IAS officer Tapan Ray. Mr. Kaul, who is a native of Gujarat, brings over two decades of experience in public policy, infrastructure development, technology, and finance. "I look forward to building on the strong foundation laid so far, driving strategic initiatives, forging global partnerships, and delivering a world-class city experience that reinforces GIFT City's status as a project of national importance," Mr. Kaul said.

Pay Commission: govt. seeks inputs from stakeholders

The Union government has sought inputs from major stakeholders, including the Defence and Home Ministries, the Department of Personnel and Training, as well as States, on setting up the Eighth Central Pay Commission (CPC), Parliament was informed on Monday. In January, the Cabinet approved setting up the Pay Commission to revise salaries of nearly 50 lakh central government employees and allowances of about 65 lakh pensioners. Asked when the revised pay scales will be implemented, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said: "The implementation would be taken up once the recommendations are made by the 8th CPC and are accepted by the government". PTI

HC acquits all 12 convicted in 2006 train blasts case

Bombay High Court sets aside 2015 judgment of special MCOCA court, which had awarded death sentence to five and life imprisonment to seven; Maharashtra govt. to challenge the verdict in SC

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday acquitted all 12 individuals who were convicted in the 2006 Mumbai train bombings case, stating that the prosecution had "utterly failed" to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt. The court set aside the 2015 judgment of the special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court, which had awarded death sentences to five accused and life imprisonment to seven.

A Special Division Bench, comprising Justices Anil S. Kilor and Shyam C. Chandak, ruled that the evidence presented by the police, including eyewitness accounts, property recoveries, and confessional statements, lacked credibility, coherence, and lawful consistency. "Punishing the actual perpetrator of a crime is essential to upholding justice. But creating a false appearance of resolution gives a misleading sense of closure," the court observed in its 671-page order. "Essentially, this is what the case at hand conveys."

One of the 12 convicted in the case, Kamal Ahmed Mohammed Vakil Ansari, died of COVID-19 in 2021 while being lodged in the Nagpur Central Jail. The court held that the verdict will apply posthumously to him as well.

The attacks on July 11, 2006 saw seven coordinated bomb blasts rip through first-class compartments of suburban trains. PTI

The Bench criticised the reliance on similar and allegedly coerced confessional statements, which it said were "copied" in parts and extracted under duress. "The accused succeeded in establishing the fact of torture inflicted on them to extort confessional statements," the court noted. It also found that the circumstantial evidence lacked completeness and failed to directly link the accused to the planning or execution of the bombings.

Reacting to the acquittal, Maharashtra's Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Iqbal Singh Chahal told *The Hindu*, "We are very shocked by the verdict. We are going to appeal against it in the Supreme Court." Senior officials confirmed that the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) will soon submit a detailed report on the case and seek legal advice.

The horrific attacks on July 11, 2006, also known as "7/11", saw seven coordinated bomb blasts rip through first-class compartments of suburban trains within a span of six minutes during Mumbai's evening rush hour. The explosions killed 187 people and injured more than 800 others, sending shockwaves across the nation. First information reports were filed at multiple police stations, and the case was handed over to the ATS.

The ATS had named 13 main accused and 15 absconding co-conspirators, linking them to the banned Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and alleging links to Pakistani terror outfits.

'Not reliable'

On Monday, the High Court noted inconsistencies in witness testimonies and procedural lapses. It remarked that eyewitness accounts – including those of taxi drivers and passengers who allegedly saw the accused plant bombs – were unreliable. Confessional statements too lacked admissibility, particularly in the absence of corroborating independent evidence, it said.

The Bench directed that all the acquitted individuals be released from custody, if not required in any other cases. They were also asked to furnish a Personal Recognisance (PR) bond of ₹25,000 each to ensure future appearance, should the State appeal the verdict.

Survivors react with anguish, say verdict feels like betrayal

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

Train blast victims arrive for a press conference after the High Court verdict. EMMANUAL YOGINI

As the Bombay High Court on Monday acquitted all 12 accused in the 2006 Mumbai train bombings case, survivors and their families expressed anguish, anger, and a deep sense of betrayal.

"Disappointment is a small word," said Bankim Rajguru, 51, a resident of Mira Road, who was 32 when a bomb ripped through the first-class compartment he was travelling on, between Charni Road and Matunga stations. The explosion left him with a severe fracture in the right ankle. "We respect the High Court's judgment, but for those who suffered and died, this is painful."

Mr. Rajguru, who still works for the same company on Charni Road, recounted: "My left leg was affected by polio, so my right leg was everything. Even now, the metal rod placed during surgery hurts," he said.

A family member of a survivor from Borivali, who spoke anonymously, said her father remained bedridden for nine months with multiple fractures, on his legs, ribs, skull, and still hadn't physically recovered. "The trauma never left our family. The judiciary has failed us," he said.

On X, survivor Chirag Chauhan, now a wheelchair user due to injuries suffered in the blast and a practising Chartered Accountant, posted: "No one killed 200 people & injured 700 in a series of seven bomb blasts on Mumbai local trains on 11 July 2006. I have personally forgiven the terrorists long ago and moved on. But today, the law of the land failed. Justice got killed."

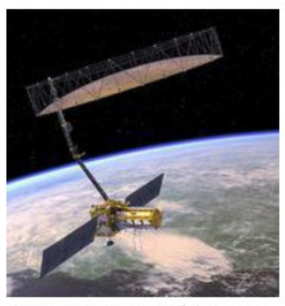
Wahid Sheikh, initially arrested in the case and acquitted by a special court in 2015 after spending nine years in prison, said that the High Court ruling had brought the truth to light. "From day one, we maintained our innocence. We were tortured, false confessions were extracted, and fake recoveries were shown," he said. "The High Court has vindicated us. We cried, not from grief, but because truth prevailed."

NISAR, first joint satellite of NASA and ISRO, scheduled to be launched on July 30

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

NISAR, the first joint satellite of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5.40 p.m. on July 30. The GSLV-F16 rocket will inject the Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit with an inclination of 98.4 degrees.

According to the ISRO, the NISAR satellite, weighing 2,392 kg, is a unique earth observation satellite, and the first satellite to observe the earth with a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar – the NASA's L-band and the ISRO's S-band – using the NASA's 12m unfurlable mesh reflector antenna, integrated to the ISRO's modified I3K satellite bus.



An artist's concept of th NISAR satellite. NASA/JPL-CALTECH

NISAR will observe earth with a swathe of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time. "The satellite will scan the entire globe and provide all weather, day and night data at 12-day intervals, and enable a wide range of applications. NISAR can detect even small changes in the earth's surface, such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement, and vegetation dynamics. Further applications include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterisation, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources, and disaster response," the ISRO stated.

It added that the launch is the result of strong technical cooperation between the ISRO and the U.S. space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory for more than a decade.

Odisha 'harassment' case: ICC report did not seek penal action

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), constituted under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, at F.M. Autonomous College in Balasore, Odisha, had not recommended any disciplinary action against the teacher accused of sexually harassing a student who later died after setting herself on fire.

The ICC report, which recently came out in the open, said the panel did not find any conclusive evidence to substantiate the charges of sexual harassment. "Students should strive to uphold the reputation of institutions and improve the quality of education by keeping a cordial relationship with teachers and they should not indulge in character assassination without any proof," the report said.

The ICC, constituted following allegations of sexual harassment against Samir Kumar Sahoo, head of the education department, did not recommend any punitive action.

The ICC report contradicted the statements of some ICC members who, after the student's death, said that they had recommended the removal of the accused teacher from his current position.

However, the report made no mention of any transfer or removal of the teacher from the post of department head.

CBSE instructs all affiliated schools to install CCTV cameras at crucial points

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had directed all affiliated schools to install CCTV cameras at crucial points across the school to ensure the safety of students.

CBSE Secretary Himanshu Gupta, in a public circular, said the Board has updated its affiliation bylaws of 2018 to include this new provision. The new provision mandates the installation of high-resolution CCTV cameras with audiovisual recording capabilities. These need to be installed across all key areas of school campuses. They include entry and exit points, lobbies, corridors, staircases, classrooms, laboratories, libraries, canteen areas, store rooms, playgrounds, and other common areas. Toilets and washrooms have been exempted from installing CCTVs.

Provision mandates installation of CCTVs with audio-visual recording capabilities.

This amendment has been made under chapter four of the bylaws.

"The cameras must be capable of real-time recording and should be connected to storage systems that retain footage for a minimum period of 15 days. Schools are expected to maintain back-ups for this duration, which must be made available to authorities as and when required," the CBSE said in the circular.

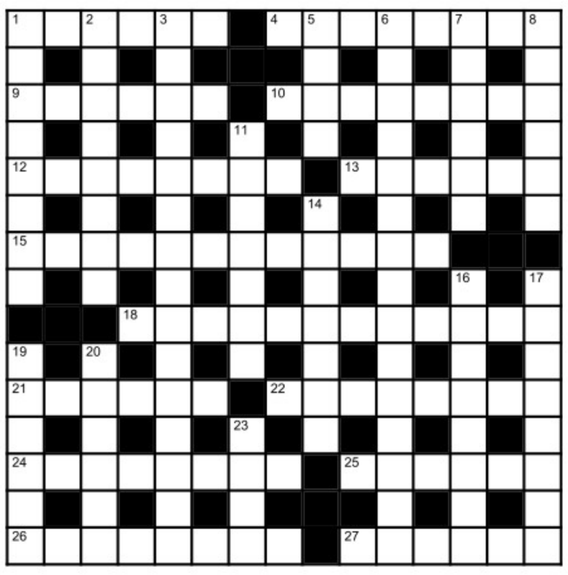
The CBSE has referred to the manual on safety and security of children of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The manual states that "CCTVs in schools need to be monitored and maintained regularly," for safety from scrupulous unsocietal elements and safety for the overall well-being of children from bullying and other implicit threats.

TH CROSSWORD + 14543

(set by VMA Nair)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 A daybreak at sea (6)
4 An expert at calculation, say, interrupts a very promising person (8)
9 Worthless experiment by China (6)
10 Brilliant student about to crack exam for a program on small screen (8)
12 Arabian authorities primarily plan to detain a person from ancient Syria (8)
13 Compound having same formula as another is more complex (6)
15 Troll daughter trapped in shelter without a bit of compassion for own failure to recognise reality (4-8)
18 Menopause file? (6,2,4)
21 Fellow leaving recreation ground around noon to relax (6)
22 Resembling glass from Soviet Union, perhaps, containing borax essentially (8)
24 Master's vocal about suggestion of importing alcoholic drink (8)
25 Colour of trendy work outfit, basically (6)
26 University at last promoted a little regionalism in language for an exceptional intellectual (8)
27 Welsh soldiers rejected ecstasy and dope (6)

Down

1 Develop computer program before survey (8)
2 After retirement, disheartened senior keeps bond in safe (8)
3 Progressive female soldiers charge at weak ruler (7-8)
5 Submit our business expenses yearly for starters (4)
6 Harry prefers scene featuring dupe for meeting with reporters (5,10)
7 Agony aunt runs away, avoiding national media on vacation (6)
8 Crash outside junction close to busy traffic circle (6)
11 Business consultant originally spent 1000 dollars (7)
14 A beautiful woman ultimately becomes convent's latest nun (7)
16 Prepared notice describing popular substance found in tobacco (8)
17 Get some new fancy jewel (8)
19 Couple of countries turned up to host event for number puzzle (6)
20 Force Rob right away to misrepresent government shares (6)
23 Video of some patient from the south (4)

SUDOKU

9		3			7			
							1	4
2	4	6						5
4			6			5		
		8		9		6		
		1			8			3
5						2	3	9
6	3							
			2			4		6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6588 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

		W	R	I	T	E	R	S	B	L	O	C	K	
A		H		M		T		A		I		L		S
T	R	A	M	P		C	O	M	P	E	T	E	N	T
H		L		E		E		B		S		A		U
E	L	E	G	A	N	T		A	L	L	O	N	Y	M
I		B		C		E		R		O				P
S	O	O	T	H	E	R	S		S	W	O	O	P	
T		A				A		B				D		B
	A	T	O	N	E		T	E	A	C	A	D	D	Y
L				E		R		R		A		M		H
E	N	C	O	M	I	A		I	N	S	H	A	P	E
G		O		E		T		B		S		N		A
A	R	M	I	S	T	I	C	E		O	D	O	U	R
L		T		I		O		R		C		U		T
	S	E	A	S	O	N	T	I	C	K	E	T		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	3	8	7	5	6	2	4
2	5	6	4	9	3	1	8	7
7	4	8	1	6	2	3	9	5
1	8	2	6	4	7	5	3	9
5	6	4	3	8	9	7	1	2
3	9	7	5	2	1	8	4	6
6	3	1	9	5	4	2	7	8
4	7	5	2	1	8	9	6	3
8	2	9	7	3	6	4	5	1

FAITH

Hanuman praises Rama

Hanuman narrated the story of Rama to two of His devotees, Sita and Bharatha. When Hanuman met Sita at Asokavana, she was initially perplexed, and wondered whether Ravana was playing another trick, having once appeared as an ascetic, and now posing as a monkey. Hanuman prostrated at the feet of Sita to alleviate her fears and doubts – as Ravana would not prostrate. Sita gained confidence and told Hanuman that she was the daughter-in-law of King Dasaratha, the daughter of King Janaka, and the wife of Rama, who would never injure the feelings of others, and who considered his father's words greater than his own.

Sri Damodhara Dikshitar explained in a discourse that, in response, Hanuman identified himself as the messenger of Sri Rama, who had mastered all the Vedas and astras, including the Brahmastra. By this, Hanuman subtly hinted that Rama would defeat Ravana. Following this exchange, Sita told Hanuman that she felt as happy as someone who had lived happily for a hundred years, and requested that Hanuman tell her more about Rama. Hanuman then began to describe Sri Rama thus: "Rama is radiant like the Sun, yet pleasant to behold like the Moon (hence called Rama Chandran). He is valiant like Vishnu; wise like Bruhaspati, the preceptor of the celestials; and as handsome as Manmatha, the God of love. His sense of justice is always well-directed. Rama is lotus-eyed; his gaze, like honey in a lotus, is filled with divine grace. He enthrals all beings, is compassionate, and matches Mother Earth in patience. Though immensely strong, he remains serene and calm, steadfastly adhering to righteousness."

INBRIEF

L&T arm to set up green hydrogen unit at IOC refinery

Larsen & Toubro subsidiary L&T Energy GreenTech will be setting up a green hydrogen plant at Indian Oil Corporation's Panipat refinery. The plant will supply 10,000 tonnes of green hydrogen annually to Indian Oil for 25 years and is set to be India's first such largest facility, L&T said. Green hydrogen will be produced using high-pressure alkaline electrolysers made at L&T Electrolysers' facility in Hazira, Gujarat.

IREDA hopeful of Gensol resolution, to raise ₹3,000 cr.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), the lender to green businesses, said it was hopeful of recovering its exposure to scam hit Gensol Engineering and BlueSmart which have been dragged to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The public sector non-banking financial company, which recently raised ₹2,005 crore through QIP, also announced plans to raise another ₹3,000 crore by this year-end.

LIC, Rural Development dept. to promote Bima Sakhi Yojana

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has entered into an MoU with the Department of Rural Development, Union Ministry of Rural Development, to promote its Bima Sakhi Yojana in rural areas. Bima Sakhi Yojana is a performance-oriented stipendiary LIC agency career for women in which all other benefits and privileges available for LIC agents are also extended to them.

'Start-ups raised ₹44,000 cr. from public markets in FY25'

Venture-backed Indian startups raised over ₹44,000 crore ($5.3 billion) in FY25 from public markets via IPOs, FPOs, and QIPs, marking a structural shift in start-up fundraising lifecycle in India. According to investment bank Rainmaker Group's RainGauge Index FY25 Annual Update, public markets outpaced private capital for late-stage fundraising, solidifying their role as the dominant source of growth capital.

Index of eight core industries grew at a 3-month high of 1.7% in June

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Index of Eight Core Industries grew at 1.7% in June 2025, compared with 5% in June last year.

The growth in June this year, while a three-month high, is significantly below the average growth of 6.3% the index saw in 2024-25. Five out of the eight sectors contracted in June 2025.

Largest contraction

The data, released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday, showed that the coal sector saw the largest contraction while the steel and cement sectors saw the strongest growth.

The coal sector contracted 6.8% in June 2025, down from a growth of 2.8% in May 2025, and a 14.8% growth in June 2024.

The crude oil sector contracted 1.2% in June this year, compared with a contraction of 1.8% in May 2025, and a contraction of 2.6% in June last year.

Similarly, the natural gas sector contracted 2.8% in June 2025, compared with a 3.6% contraction in May 2025, and a 3.3% growth in June 2024.

The electricity sector contracted 2.8%, compared with a 4.7% contraction in May 2025.

Steel, cement grow

The three sectors that witnessed growth in June 2025 were steel, cement, and refinery products.

The steel sector grew at 9.3% in June, up from 7.4% in May, and 6.3% in June last year. The cement sector grew at 9.2% in June, down from 9.6% in May, and 1.8% in June 2024.

The refinery products sector grew at 3.4% in June, up from 1.1% in May, and a contraction of 1.5% in June 2024.

'Around 6% of PM internship offer recipients joined work'

A little more than 50,000 candidates have so far accepted the 1.53 lakh offers made by companies, under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme, FM Nirmala Sitharaman tells Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A little more than 50,000 candidates have so far accepted the 1.53 lakh offers made by companies under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS), according to data provided by the government to the Lok Sabha. Of those who have accepted, 8,700 or about 6% have so far joined the respective companies as interns.

The PMIS was announced in the Budget 2024-25, and aims to provide internships in India's top 500 companies to one crore youth in five years.

In the first round of this pilot, companies posted more than 1.27 lakh internship opportunities on the PMIS Portal across the country.

Opportunites galore: In the first round of this pilot, companies posted over 1.27 lakh internships on the PMIS portal. FILE PHOTO

"Against this, more than 6.21 lakh applications were received from about 1.81 lakh candidates," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply. "Partner companies made over 82,000 internship offers to over 60,000 candidates, out of which more than 28,000 candidates accepted offers to join the internship, and over 8,700 candidates joined their internship," Ms. Sitharaman added.

In the second round of the pilot, which began on January 9, 2025, the partner companies posted over 1.18 lakh internship opportunities, including new ones and edited unfilled opportunities from the previous round, across 735 districts of the country.

"Over 4.55 lakh applications were received from over 2.14 lakh applicants in this round," Ms. Sitharaman said. "As on 17.07.2025, partner companies have made over 71,000 offers to the youth and over 22,500 offers have been accepted. Currently, rolling out of offers and the process of acceptances/ joining by interns is in progress." In total, so far, 1.53 lakh offers have been made, of which 50,500 were accepted.

SEBI says Jane Street can now trade in markets

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed U.S.-based investment firm Jane Street to trade in the securities market after it complied with the regulator's interim order and transferred ₹4,843 crore to the escrow account, according to a statement.

Jane Street was banned from dealing in the securities market and debits in bank accounts were frozen after the capital markets regulator found it guilty of manipulating the stock and derivative markets.

In its interim order, SEBI clarified that investigation into the matter would be under way.

India's Titan to buy majority stake in Dubai's Damas

Reuters

Indian jeweller Titan Company said on Monday it would acquire a 67% stake in Dubai-based luxury jewellery retailer Damas at an enterprise value of 1.04 billion UAE dirham ($283.2 million), as it expands its presence in West Asia.

The Tata Group company will have the right to acquire the remaining 33% stake in Damas after December 31, 2029, it said in an exchange filing.

Titan derives nearly 90% of its revenue from jewellery sales.

Titan derives nearly 90% of its revenue from jewellery sales. The company has had a presence in the United Arab Emirates since October 2020 through its Tanishq jewellery stores, according to the company website. Damas, owned by Qatar-based Mannai Corporation, has 146 stores across the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries - UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. Standard Chartered was Titan's advisor for the deal.

Ghodbunder Road emerges as 'affordable' MMR corridor

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ghodbunder Road, a neighborhood in Thane has emerged as the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's (MMR) corridor for middle-income housing when most peripheral markets have outpaced wage growth and priced out first-time home buyers.

Despite property price escalation in the whole of MMR, Ghodbunder Road maintains a unique market position as it continues to attract salaried, end-user buyers. According to data from the Department of Registration and Stamps, the location saw a 28.1% year-on-year increase in residential sale agreements in FY2024-25.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,200	0.54
US Dollar	86.31	-0.17
Gold	99,020	0.25
Brent oil	68.88	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2619.50	23.40
Adani Ports	1450.50	7.40
Apollo Hosp	7254.50	-49.00
Asian Paints	2375.40	-7.00
Axis Bank	1099.60	0.30
Bajaj Auto	8438.50	91.00
Bajaj Finserv	2053.90	24.30
Bajaj Finance	948.45	6.45
Bharat Elec	399.95	5.20
Bharti Airtel	1909.20	8.20
Cipla	1473.90	-8.40
Coal India	386.80	-1.70
Dr Reddys Lab	1259.30	1.80
Eicher Motors	5558.00	-69.50
Eternal Ltd.	271.70	14.50
Grasim Ind	2741.90	13.40
HCL Tech	1530.40	-18.40
HDFC Bank	2000.50	43.10
HDFC Life	752.30	12.80
Hero MotoCorp	4408.20	11.50
Hindalco	682.70	6.80
Hind Unilever	2464.90	-24.70
ICICI Bank	1465.80	40.00
IndusInd Bank	858.80	-11.25
Infosys	1584.30	-1.80
ITC	420.10	-2.65
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	317.25	0.40
JSW Steel	1034.80	0.40
Kotak Bank	2165.20	24.70
L&T	3502.80	38.00
M&M	3246.70	54.30
Maruti Suzuki	12405.00	-14.00
NestleIndia	2472.60	0.40
NTPC	341.55	-0.55
ONGC	245.04	-1.27
PowerGrid Corp	297.00	2.85
Reliance Ind	1428.60	-47.40
SBI Life	1804.70	16.30
State Bank	824.20	0.85
Shriram Finance Ltd.	655.65	10.15
Sun Pharma	1692.30	-1.30
TataConsumerProduct	1090.30	-5.60
Tata Motors	687.45	7.20
Tata Steel	163.02	0.65
TCS	3158.20	-31.70
Tech Mahindra	1543.80	-5.10
Titan	3433.00	30.10
Trent Ltd.	5376.00	1.00
UltraTech Cement	12577.00	79.00
Wipro	260.35	-6.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.09	86.41
Euro	100.37	100.75
British Pound	115.90	116.34
Japanese Yen (100)	58.28	58.50
Chinese Yuan	12.00	12.04
Swiss Franc	107.66	108.07
Singapore Dollar	67.15	67.41
Canadian Dollar	62.79	63.03
Malaysian Ringitt	20.31	20.42
Australian Dollar	56.10	56.31

Source:Indian Bank

UltraTech Cement Q1 net profit up 49%

UltraTech Cement Ltd. for the first quarter ended June 30, 2025 reported 49% growth in consolidated net profit to ₹2,226 crore compared with ₹1,495 crore a year earlier.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र, बीकानेर
फोन 0151-2226451, ईमेल rj_acebi@nic.in

क्रमांक :- अति/बी/अंके.बी./2025-26/3975-3998 दिनांक :- 21.07.25

संशोधन क्रमांक-02

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या 03/2025–26 हेतु निम्नानुसार संशोधन जारी किया जाता है:–

प्रक्रिया	ऑनलाईन बिड डालना	कार्यालय में धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा शुल्क प्रस्तुत करना	ऑनलाईन बिड खोलना
दिनांक एवं समय	11.08.2025 सांय 6.00 बजे तक	12.08.2025 प्रातः 11.00 बजे तक	12.08.2025 प्रातः 11.30 बजे

विस्तृत संशोधन **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है। अन्य शर्तें मूल निविदा के अनुसार यथावत रहेंगी। इस निविदा का एसपीपी पोर्टल पर यूबीएन नम्बर **PHE2526WSOB03965** है।

(राजेश पुरोहित)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
जन स्वा0अभि0विभाग, क्षेत्र-बीकानेर

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
No. 3 & 4, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560029 Karnataka, India

INVITATION FOR GLOBAL PRE – QUALIFICATION BID
(PQB NO. 04/CO/GPQB/2025 – 26 DATED JULY 21, 2025)

BRBNMPL invites for Global Pre-Qualification Bid (GPQB) from eligible, bonafide and resourceful bidders for manufacturing and supply of **"Colour Shift Pigment to Manufacture Colour Shift Intaglio Security Ink Suitable for Printing of Indian Banknotes"**

Filled in response with details are to be submitted in physical mode to the Chief General Manager, Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited, Corporate Office, No. 3 & 4, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 029, India by **11:00 hrs. IST** on or before **August 22, 2025. The PQB shall be opened at 11:30 hrs. IST on August 22, 2025.**

For PQB documents, eligibility criteria and other details, please visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. All further amendments / corrigendum if any, shall be notified only on the Company website as above. Interested bidders are requested to visit our website periodically to know changes / amendments, if any.

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912/895

TENDER NOTICE

C-DIT invites sealed tenders in two cover system for "Providing Google Workspace Licenses from authorized premium Google Partners".
Last date of submission of bid: **28.07.2025, 03.00 PM**
Tender will be opened on the same day at 03.30 PM.
For details visit www.cdit.org
21.07.2025 Registrar, C-DIT

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
O/o THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND BASIN MANAGER,
MAHANADI BASIN, AT-BURLA, DISTRICT - SAMBALPUR, PIN - 768017
E-mail Id - cebmumbburla@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice No-CE& BM-MB-05/2025-2026 (Online)
BID IDENTIFICATION NO- CE & BM-MB-05/2025-2026 (Online)

1.	Name of the work	:	Renovation of Canal System of Hirakud Dam Project (Bargarh Canal Section, Bargarh Irrigation Division, Bargarh).
2.	No of works	:	One (01) number
3.	Class of Contractor	:	" A Class" and "Special Class"
4.	Bid Identification No	:	CE&BM-MB-05/2025-2026 (Online)
5.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.14.62 Crores
6.	Period of Completion	:	24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months
7.	Date and time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal	:	Dated- 22.07.2025 at 11.30 AM to Dated- 12.08.2025 up to 5.00 PM
8.	Last date / time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	Dated- 12.08.2025 up to 5.00 PM
9.	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I).	:	Dated 13.08.2025 at 11.30 AM, O/o Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla.
10.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla, Dist-Sambalpur, Odisha, 768017 Email Id: cebmumbburla@gmail.com

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website **http://tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Mahanadi Basin, Burla
A-: OIPR-32508/11/0010/2526

INDORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
7, Race Course Road, Indore (MP)
Email: idaindore7@yahoo.in

No.: IDA/ETENDER/2025-26/51/180 Date: 15-07-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender ID 2025_DTCP_437289_1 (4th Call)

The Indore Development Authority (IDA) has developed a State-of-the-Art Infrastructure of Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) at Kumedi (MR-10), Indore over 5.85 Hectors and intends to invite proposals from interested parties for the work of Lease cum Operation and Maintenance of ISBT Kumedi, Indore on LUMSUM offer.
RFP documents can be purchased from website https://mptenders.gov.in. Help manual can be seen on the portal of e-procurement system.

S. No.	Name of the Project	Cost of RFP Document including GST (Rs.)	EMD as Bid Security (Rs.)	Duration of Work
1	SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR LEASE CUM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ISBT, KUMEDI INDORE	11800/-	1000000/-	20 Years (Initial Period) + Extended by 5 Years*

*Subject to the satisfactory performance reviewed by IDA, Indore

Interested parties may purchase / download the Request for Proposal (RFP) Document online only from the e-procurement portal of Madhya Pradesh - **https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** from **14-07-2025** 18:55 hrs. to **29-07-2025** 18:00 hrs. A Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 24-07-2025 at 11:30 hrs in the Conference Hall of IDA, Indore.

Kamal Singh
Executive Engineer
Indore Development Authority
Mob.: 7440443319

Dr. NTR UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES: A.P.: VIJAYAWADA - 520008
TENDER NOTICE
No.09/We/TS/DM1/25
Sealed Tenders are invited for following work at Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada.

Sl.No	Name of the work
1.	Providing Central web streaming setup at the Command Control room at Dr. NTR UHS, Vijayawada Note: For further details visit www.apeprocurement.gov.in

Sd/- Dr. V. Radhika Reddy
REGISTRAR

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No.	Tender ID	Item
1.	2025_KMML_777211_1	For the supply of Bricks for Chlorinator
2.	2025_KMML_777231_1	For the supply of Forklift 5T Diesel

Chavara 21.07.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 17-07-2025 to 20-07-2025
Stationery Department
Tender ID: 2025_STY_777380_1 * Stationery Controller * Supply of Photocopying Paper A4 Size * Closing Date: 11-Aug-2025 * PAC: Rs60000000
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.
Ro.No:17-20/Jul/2025/PRD/(N)8

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited invites tender vide **Enquiry No.s: BESCOM/2025-26/SE0249** and **BESCOM/2025-26/SE0250** through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform from eligible Bidders respectively for **"Availing Services to the BESCOM Customer Helpline Centre located at Centre of Excellence, HSR layout, Bengaluru"** and **"Availing Services to the BESCOM Control Room located at Centre of Excellence, HSR layout, Bengaluru"** on turnkey basis.

The details of the tender and the bidding documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **on or after 23.07.2025**. Aspiring bidders need to register in the KPP portal. Further, Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk +918046010000, +918068948777, +919240214000, +919240214001 or e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for any issue.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

Sd/-
The General Manager (Elec.),
Customer Relation, BESCOM

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
ZONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (JDZ)
NEW POWER HOUSE ROAD, JODHPUR- 342003, PHONE (0291) 2651201

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Short term Techno-commerical and Price e-Bids are invited for:
1) TNJDZ-42 To TNJDZ-49 "Erection of 11 KV line and 11/0.4 KV sub Station for Releasing of Agriculture Connection under (O&M) S/D Balesar, Bhopalgarh, Chamu, Mandore, Mathania, Osian, Sekhala and Tinwari under District Circle Jodhpur including transportation of Material from S/D Store to site on Labour rate basis-2025".

Sr.	TN No.	Name of Sub Division	11 KV Line	No. of AG Connections	UBN No.
1	TNJDZ-42	Chamu	24.86 Km	113 Nos	JVV2526WSOB00300
2	TNJDZ-43	Balesar	19.58 Km	89 Nos	JVV2526WSOB00301
3	TNJDZ-44	Sekhala	23.46 Km	108 Nos	JVV2526WSOB00302
4	TNJDZ-45	Bhopalgarh	38.5 Km	175 Nos	JVV2526WSOB00303
5	TNJDZ-46	Mathania	44.0 Km	200 Nos	JVV2526WSOB00304
6	TNJDZ-47	Osian	41.8 Km	190 Nos	JVV2526WSOB00305
7	TNJDZ-48	Mandore	38.5 Km	175 Nos	JVV2526WSOB00306
8	TNJDZ-49	Tinwari	37.4 Km	170 Nos	JVV2526WSOB00307

Details regarding Quantity, Tender Cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening etc. are available on our website at **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl** and also at **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. The bidders, in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line on website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Note :- Interested bidders please note that in future any other notices/information regarding amendment/corrigendum/addendum/dates extension of bid submission etc. for above tender will only be available on website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl.**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/6492 ZONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (JDZ)

बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

LONDON

U.K., France and 23 other countries say the war in Gaza 'must end now'

REUTERS

Twenty-five countries including Britain, France and other European nations issued a statement on Monday saying the war in Gaza "must end now" and Israel must comply with international law. The Foreign Ministers of nations including Australia, Canada and Japan said "the suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths". AFP

BRUSSELS

Belgium quizzes two Israelis over accusations of war crimes in Gaza

AFP

Belgian officials said they held and questioned two Israeli citizens who attended an electronic music festival, after pro-Palestinian groups accused them of war crimes in Gaza . Prosecutors said they received complaints alleging that two Israeli soldiers were spotted at the Tomorrowland festival near Antwerp last week. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran to hold nuclear talks with European nations in Turkiye

AFP

Iran said on Monday it would hold renewed talks this week with European nations over the country's nuclear programme, with discussions to be hosted by Turkiye. The talks will bring Iranian officials together with officials from Britain, France and Germany and will include the EU's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas. AP

WASHINGTON

Alaska Airlines resumes flights after grounding fleet for 3 hours

AP

Alaska Airlines has resumed flights after the failure of a critical piece of hardware forced the airline to ground all its planes for approximately three hours, but the effects will linger into Monday, the company announced. More than 150 flights had been cancelled since Sunday evening. AP

Israeli tanks, snipers opened fire on crowd seeking aid: UN food agency

'These people were simply trying to access food to feed themselves and their families' when they came under fire, said the World Food Programme; at least 80 Palestinians were killed in the incident; overall death toll in Gaza has surpassed 59,000

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

The UN food agency accused Israel of using tanks, snipers and other weapons to fire on a crowd of Palestinians seeking food aid, in what the territory's Health Ministry said was one of the deadliest days for aid-seekers in over 21 months of war.

The World Food Programme in a statement on Sunday condemned the violence that erupted in northern Gaza as Palestinians tried to reach a convoy of trucks carrying food. The Health Ministry in Gaza said at least 80 people were killed in the incident. The Israeli military has said it fired warning shots "to remove an immediate threat", but has questioned the death toll reported by the Palestinians.

Glimmer of hope: Gazans ride in the back of a tricycle cart along Salah al-din road in Deir el-Balah on Monday. AFP

The accusation by a major aid agency that has had generally good working relations with Israel builds on descriptions by witnesses and others, who also said Israel opened fire on the crowd. The bloodshed surrounding aid access highlights the increasingly precarious situation for people in Gaza who have been desperately seeking out food and other assistance. As the talks proceed, the death toll in the war-ravaged territory has climbed to more than 59,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

In northern Gaza on Sunday, the Health Ministry, witnesses and a UN official said Israeli forces opened fire toward crowds who tried to get food from a 25-truck convoy that had entered the hard-hit area.

The WFP statement, which said the crowd surrounding its convoy "came under fire from Israeli tanks, snipers and other gunfire," backs up those claims.

"These people were simply trying to access food to feed themselves and their families on the brink of starvation," it said, adding that the incident occurred despite assurances from Israeli authorities that aid delivery would improve. Part of those assurances, it said, was that armed forces would not be present nor engage along aid routes. "Shootings near humanitarian missions, convoys and food distributions must stop immediately."

At least 20 killed as Air Force jet crashes into Dhaka school

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

A Bangladesh Air Force training fighter jet crashed into a school building in Dhaka shortly after take-off on Monday, killing at least 20 people, mostly children, and injuring 171, in one of the deadliest aviation accidents in the country's recent history.

The F-7 BGI aircraft, a training fighter jet manufactured in China, crashed into the two-storey building of Milestone School and College at Diabari in Dhaka's Uttara area. The pilot, Flight Lieutenant Mohammad Towkir Islam, was killed in the crash.

According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR), the pilot attempted to steer the aircraft away from densely populated areas. However, despite his efforts, the aircraft tragically crashed into the two-storey building of the school.

Sudden shock: Firemen look for survivors after a Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed into a school in Dhaka on Monday. AP

The aircraft crashed due to a mechanical fault (the details of which will be informed after investigation) after taking off from the Bangladesh Air Force Base AK Khandaker in Kurmitola at 1.06 p.m. as part of a regular training, the statement said.

It said that the chief of army staff and senior military officers rushed to the crash site where rescuers, including firefighters, army troops, police and elite Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), continued their rescue operations.

Ishiba to stay on as Japan PM despite loss in House polls

Associated Press
TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Monday he will stay in office to tackle challenges such as rising prices and high U.S. tariffs after a weekend election defeat left his coalition with a minority in both parliamentary chambers and triggered calls for his resignation.

Mr. Ishiba's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito were short three seats to maintain a majority in the 248-seat Upper House in Sunday's vote.

The loss of a majority does not lead to a change of government because the Upper House lacks power to file a no-confidence motion against a leader.

Shigeru Ishiba

Mr. Ishiba said he takes the result seriously but that his priority is to avoid creating a political vacuum and to tackle impending challenges, including the August 1 deadline for a tariff deal with the U.S. "While I feel my serious responsibility over the election results, I must also fulfill my responsibility I bear for the country," Mr. Ishiba said.

Russia, Ukraine to meet in Turkiye tomorrow for talks

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russia and Ukraine will hold new peace talks on Wednesday as a follow-up to two rounds in Istanbul that made little progress on ending their war, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced.

"Today, I discussed with (Ukrainian Security Council chief) Rustem Umerov the preparations for the exchange and another meeting in Turkiye with the Russian side. Umerov reported that the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday," Mr. Zelenskyy said in his daily address on Monday.

The rival sides met in Istanbul on May 16 and June 2 amid U.S. pressure to agree a ceasefire. Despite the urging of U.S. President Donald Trump, no breakthrough was made.

Ukrainian and Russian negotiators have so far only agreed to hold prisoner exchanges. And Russia has since launched intense air attacks on Ukraine and seized more territory.

After Mr. Trump last week gave Russia 50 days to negotiate a deal or face heavy sanctions – and also renewed arms supplies to Ukraine – the Kremlin said it was ready for more talks.

The two sides exchanged ideas at the earlier talks on what a peace deal could look like, but remain far apart.

"A lot of diplomatic work lies ahead," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday, commenting on the prospects for a breakthrough.

UN concerned by Taliban's arrest of women, girls

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

The United Nations on Monday expressed concern about the Taliban's arrest of Afghan women and girls for their alleged failure to comply with the authorities' dress code.

The UN mission in Afghanistan said it was concerned by the arrest of "numerous" women and girls in Kabul between July 16 and 19, who authorities claimed had not followed instructions on wearing the hijab, or the Islamic headscarf.

Indian embassy in contact with Irish officials following attack on Indian national

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Embassy of India in Ireland has reached out to the Irish authorities and the civil society after an Indian citizen was viciously assaulted by right-wing gangs in Dublin over the weekend, Ambassador of India Akhilesh Mishra told *The Hindu* on Monday.

"The horrible attack has naturally caused widespread concern and fear in the local Indian community. The embassy is in touch with the victim, the larger community and has taken up the matter with various Irish authorities," Ambassador Mishra said over a phone call from Dublin. He also informed that the male victim, an employee of Amazon, is currently receiving medical attention.

'New reality'

The victim, who is in his forties, had arrived in Ireland only a week ago, sources told *The Hindu*. The sources added that attacks against Indians and people of colour from other Asian and African countries are on the rise in Ireland.

"Ireland was not unsafe earlier, but over the past three years, the situation has dramatically changed because of the rise of violent racist gangs that target foreigners," a diplomatic source said.

Ireland has around one lakh Indians who are part of the high-income segment of the Irish economy.

However, the recent spurt in racist attacks against foreigners has drawn attention from the expat Indian community.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.KPTCL/B16/44953/2023-24 Date: 19.07.2025
NOTIFICATION
In pursuance to KPTCL Employment Notification dated 14.10.2024, the Cut-Off Marks along with the Provisional Selection Lists of Endurance Test qualified candidates selected on merit on the basis of marks secured in the SSLC/10th Standard for the posts of **Junior Station Attendant (KK) & Junior Powerman (KK)** in KPTCL is published in website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Director (Admn. & HR), Corporate Office, KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavana, Bengaluru-560009.

KARNATAKA STATE HANDICRAFTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No. 45, 3rd Floor, KSHDC Complex, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-01.
Phone: 080-71204445/46, Email: md@cauveryhandicrafts.net
No. KSHDCL/FD/e-bid/002/25-26 Date: 21.07.2025
E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited (KSHDCL) invites proposals from Zonal/Regional/ Head Offices of Scheduled Public Sector Banks to participate in an e-auction for offering the most competitive interest rate for investment of the Corporation's surplus funds in a 1-year callable Fixed Deposit.
The e-auction will be conducted exclusively through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Start Date for Accessing the E-Portal: **21.07.2025,** Pre-Bid meeting: **28.07.2025,** Last Date and Time for Submission of Bids: **31.07.2025** and Live Bidding: **04.08.2025 up to 3:00 PM.** For further details, Contact:**General Manager (Finance)**, KSHDCL, No. 45, 3rd Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560001
Sd/- Managing Director

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸರಕಾರಿ ಲೇಡಿಗೋಶನ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ
ಮಂಗಳೂರು.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎನ್.ಎಚ್.ಎಮ್./14(ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್)/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.07.2025
ಮರು- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ವಿಷಯ: ಸರಕಾರಿ ಲೇಡಿಗೋಶನ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಯ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಔಷಧಿಗಳ ಹೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಮರು-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ.
ಸರಕಾರಿ ಲೇಡಿಗೋಶನ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಔಷಧಿಗಳ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. 1999-2000 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ-ಬಿಡ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು KPP Portal ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ಸ್ ವೆಬ್ಸೈಟ್: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.inನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು.
1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ಅಪ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.07.2025.
2. ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ಅಪ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 05.08.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30.
3. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.08.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
(ಅಥವಾ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದರೆ ಮರುದಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನದಂದು ಬಿಡ್ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು)
ಸಹಿ/- ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ಸರಕಾರಿ ಲೇಡಿಗೋಶನ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
DIPR / MNG / 514/ MPL / 25-26

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.
No: KREIS/EE-3/Tender-12/2025-26 Date: 21.07.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)
The tenders have been invited for **Construction of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (SC) Pre and Post Metric Hostels in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 658, 675, 677, 695, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703 & 705)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **21.07.2025.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **20.08.2025.** The details may be viewed at above website.
Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.
DIPR/CP/YC/1962/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer-3 KREIS

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanaga Palike, No.-98, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003
No.: SADH(W)TENDER/05/2025-26 Date: 21.07.2025
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(SHORT TERM) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)
The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Bore well maintenance for Parks. **(Standard tender document: KW-1, KW-2).**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Maintenance of Borewells in Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency Parks. **Estimate Cost (in Lakhs):** 15.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 18,750/-, **Category:** SC, **KW-1**
2	Maintenance of Borewells in Gandhinagara Assembly Constituency Parks. **Estimate Cost (in Lakhs):** 10.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 25,000/-, **Category:** Others, **KW-1**
3	Maintenance of Borewells in Chamarajpete Assembly Constituency Parks. **Estimate Cost (in Lakhs):** 4.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 10,000/-, **Category:** Others, **KW-1**
4	Maintenance of Borewells in Mahalakshmipuram Assembly Constituency Parks. **Estimate Cost (in Lakhs):** 27.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 54,000/-, **Category:** Others, **KW-2**
5	Maintenance of Borewells in Rajajinagara Assembly Constituency Parks. **Estimate Cost (in Lakhs):** 10.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 12,500/-, **Category:** SC, **KW-1**
6	Maintenance of Borewells in Govindarajanagara Assembly Constituency Parks. **Estimate Cost (in Lakhs):** 25.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 50,000/-, **Category:** Others, **KW-2**

Calendar of Events: (1) The tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **23.07.2025. (2)** Tender Closing date: **31.07.2025** at **4:30 p.m. (3)** Technical bid opening date: **02.08.2025** at **11:30 a.m. (4)** Financial bid opening date: **After approval of Technical bid.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West Zone), BBMP

LONE CHANGE

England replaces injured Bashir with Dawson for the fourth Test

GETTY IMAGES

England made one change to its playing XI for the fourth Test against India with all-rounder Liam Dawson replacing the injured Shoaib Bashir. **The England XI:** Ben Stokes (Capt.), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (wk), Liam Dawson, Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer.

FLEXIBLE UNIT

Lord's victory shows we can adapt to situations, says Carse

AFP

England's victory against India at Lord's was an example of the team's ability to break free from their one-dimensional aggressive brand of cricket and adapt, pacer Brydon Carse said. "It was not the typical style of cricket that we would like to play, but it shows this side can move forward and adapt to certain situations," said Carse.

RECOGNITION

Lancashire to honour Engineer, Lloyd with stands at Old Trafford

FILE PHOTOS: K. MURALI KUMAR, PTI

Former India 'keeper Farokh Engineer and West Indies legend Clive Lloyd will have stands named after them at the Old Trafford ground by their former county side Lancashire on the sidelines of the fourth Test between England and India. Engineer played for Lancashire for close to 10 years while Lloyd was with the club for two decades.

FINE EFFORT

Ekansh's hundred takes England colts to 309 on rain-hit second day

FILE PHOTO

Ekansh Singh's hundred lifted England under-19 to 309 in the first innings on a rain-interrupted second day of the second Youth Test against the Indian colts at Chelmsford on Monday. **The scores:** England u-19 309 in 81.3 overs (Thomas Rew 59, Ekansh Singh 117, James Minto 46, Naman Pushpak 4/76) vs India u-19 51/1 in 9 overs.

New addition Kamboj likely to be drafted into the Indian playing XI

The Haryana seamer toils hard in the nets ahead of the crucial fourth Test at Old Trafford; Pant has a long session behind the stumps

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

As Anshul Kamboj marked his run-up, he was greeted with a banter by Mohammed Siraj. "Welcome to Manchester, man!" Siraj told the young fast bowler, who has been added to the Indian team, following Arshdeep Singh's thumb injury.

The youngster smiled and over the next hour, he toiled hard in the nets, bowling long spells, alongside Jasprit Bumrah, Siraj and Prasidh Krishna.

With the series on the line, Bumrah will be available for the fourth Test at Old Trafford, beginning on Wednesday. While Siraj is an automatic choice, Arshdeep and Akash Deep, yet to recover fully from a groin niggle, have been ruled out.

India's seam-bowling options are limited, and there are indications that the 24-year-old Kamboj could be drafted into the playing XI.

Nitish out

All-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy being ruled out of the remaining two Tests, due to a knee injury, has only added to India's woes.

Kamboj, who is known for his skiddy pace and the ability to extract sharp bounce, was recently part of the India-A squad for the two 'Tests'. He claimed a four-wicket haul in the second match at Northampton, including two in a single over in the second innings.

That experience could come in handy for the Haryana seamer. As he bowled to K.L. Rahul, followed by Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant in the nets, head coach Gautam Gambhir and Morkel had frequent conversations with him, in an effort to make him feel comfortable.

Kamboj looked at ease, and often challenged the batters with his pace. In fact, in the middle of the session, the youngster could be seen picking the brains of Bumrah and Siraj as he was being monitored by the national selectors – Ajit Agarkar and Shiv Sunder Das. Coming on the back of a successful domestic season, where he claimed 79 wickets in 24 games, Kamboj has also proved his mettle with the bat as he forged an unbeaten 149-run stand with Tanush Kotian to help India-A force a draw during the match at Nottingham.

While Bumrah's presence will be a huge boost, it will be interesting to see how the bowling unit handles the pressure.

"The combination is changing day by day. Our plan is to bowl in good areas, considering how the England batters played with a lot of patience in the last match," Siraj said.

The team management may also consider tweaking the bowling combination, potentially favouring Kuldeep Yadav over Washington Sundar, given that the Old Trafford surface is expected to assist wrist spinners.

After skipping wicket-keeping duties, following a left index finger injury during the Lord's Test, Pant had a long session behind the stumps on Monday.

Initially monitored by fielding coach T. Dilip, Pant later joined a slip catching drill, along with Rahul, Gill, Karun Nair and B. Sai Sudharsan. He looked comfortable throughout and is expected to keep wickets.

Meanwhile, there are signs the team management may hand Sai Sudharsan the No. 3 spot, following a string of disappointing performances from Karun.

Bending his back: Kamboj sweats it out during practice. PTI

Representing the nation gives me all the energy I need: Siraj

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

Mohammed Siraj has bowled relentlessly in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. Having featured in all three Tests so far, he has claimed 13 wickets, becoming one of India's standout performers in the series.

However, as he gears up for the fourth Test at Old Trafford, it's playing for the country that keeps him going.

"There's no real secret. When you play for your country, that in itself is the biggest motivation," Siraj said on Monday.

"Representing the nation gives me all the energy I need. My only aim is to give 100% on the field so that when I go back and rest at night, I don't have regrets like 'I could've done this' or 'I missed that.' Results can go either way – but I must always give my best."

With Jasprit Bumrah playing just two matches so far, Siraj has bowled 109 overs in the series, but he is not too worried about his workload.

"God has kept me in good health. The record books will show that Siraj has bowled this much or that much, but my only aim is to play as many games as possible for the country and help the team win," he said.

Siraj. PTI

> *Jassi bhai toh khelenge hi* (Bumrah will definitely play). That's what I know
> **SIRAJ**

Siraj wants to keep contributing to the team's success. However, he hasn't set any targets for himself.

"I'm bowling really well, but sometimes luck doesn't favor you. Every bowler wants a wicket every time they bowl. I tell myself that even if I don't get wickets today, I'll get them in the next match. I believe God is watching my effort – he got me here, and he'll take me further. So I stay patient," he said.

"I do get frustrated when I'm beating the bat again and again and not getting wickets, but I stay grounded and keep doing my job".

Divya outwits Harika to enter the semifinals

CHESS WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BATUMI (GEORGIA)

Slowly but surely emerging as one of India's key players, International Master Divya Deshmukh stunned higher-ranked compatriot D. Harika 2-0 in the tiebreaks to enter the semifinals of the FIDE World Women's Chess Cup here on Monday. After two uneventful draws in the classical games, the pressure was on Harika in the rapid tiebreaks.

Divya capitalised with a determined performance to win the first game, before sealing the match in the second as Harika, in a must-win situation, overpressed in search of a miracle that never came.

Fast and furious: Divya proved too good for Harika in the tiebreaks. FIDE

This also means that one Indian entry is assured in the Women's Candidates Tournament slated sometime next year, which will decide who will contest the world championship match against incumbent Ju Wenjun of China.

In the semifinals, Humpy will meet top seed Lei Tingjie of China, while Divya will face former women's world champion Tan Zhongyi, also of China.

Arjun gets the sixth spot; Praggnanandhaa seventh

Press Trust of India
LAS VEGAS

Indian stars Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa finished in sixth and seventh position respectively, even as Grandmaster Levon Aronian of the United States reigned supreme in the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam here.

Aronian survived some anxious moments before defeating compatriot Hans Moke Niemann 1.5-0.5 in the finals of the tournament.

Magnus Carlsen also had a similar experience as he rallied after a disappointing first game to outplay Hikaru Nakamura in the third-place play-off.

Arjun went down 0-2 to Fabiano Caruana while Praggnanandhaa defeated Wesley So 1.5-0.5 to clinch the seventh spot among last eight remaining participants in this event.

Aronian took home $200000 for winning the tournament, while Arjun got $40000 for his effort.

Praggnanandhaa wasn't far behind as he pocketed a total of $30000 after his final-round win.

Scheffler plays down comparison to Woods after British Open success

GOLF

Agence France-Presse
PORTRUSH

Scottie Scheffler dismissed comparisons of his grip on golf to Tiger Woods' prime as "silly" after storming to his first British Open on Sunday.

The World No. 1 took his overall Major total to four, three of which have come in the past two years, as he moved to within a US Open victory of completing the career Grand Slam.

Rory McIlroy said Scheffler's dominant run over the past two years, which includes 10 PGA Tour wins and an Olympic gold medal, has only been matched by "two or three players in the history of the game."

However, the American said he has a long way to go to match the 15-time Major champion.

Silly

"I still think they're a bit silly. Tiger won, what, 15 majors? This is my fourth. I just got one-fourth of the way there," said Scheffler after lifting the Claret Jug and celebrating with wife Meredith and one-year-old son Bennett.

"I think Tiger stands alone in the game of golf. He was inspirational for me growing up. He was a very, very talented guy, and he was a special person to be able to be as good as he was at the game of golf."

Cute moment: Scheffler with his son Bennett after claiming the Claret Jug for his fourth Major. REUTERS

> I think Tiger stands alone in the game of golf. He was inspirational for me growing up
> **SCHEFFLER**

Scheffler also doubled down that winning tournaments is not what defines him.

"Just because you win a golf tournament or accomplish something, it doesn't make you happy. Maybe for a few moments, maybe for a few days, but at the end of the day, there's more to life than playing golf," he added.

"Am I grateful for it? Do I enjoy it? Oh, my gosh, yes, this is a cool feeling. I can't wait to get home and celebrate this championship with the people that have helped me along the way. But at the end of the day, it doesn't fulfill the deepest desires of my heart."

Lifting the Claret Jug held a greater significance after his memories of waking up early to follow the British Open across the Atlantic Ocean as a child.

"I grew up waking up early to watch this tournament on TV, just hoping and dreaming I would get the chance to come play in this championship," added Scheffler.

Brook opens up on the verbal volleys at Lord's

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

Tempers flared during England's 22-run win at Lord's with players from both sides engaging in verbal volleys.

However, star England batter Harry Brook, stated that his team tried playing 'in the spirit of the game as much as possible' before the Indian players provoked them on the third evening.

"Their lads went hard at Creeps [Zak Crawley] and Ducky [Ben Duckett] on that night when Bumrah bowled that single over. We watched that and we re-assessed and we thought it was the right time to go (hit) back at them," Brook said on Monday.

"I think it put them under a little bit more pressure. Obviously, (they were) chasing a low score but on a tough pitch. It might have given them that little bit of added pressure. Thankfully, they ended up crumbling, and we won the game."

England managed to defend 192, and Brook revealed that he received several compliments for the memorable victory.

"I have had a lot of compliments. Everybody said it was awesome to watch and it looked like there were 11 versus two out there when we were fielding. It was good fun; it was tiring, but it made fielding a lot more enjoyable," he said.

Tit for tat: Brook said the England players gave the Indians a dose of their own medicine. GETTY IMAGES

INBRIEF

Owen makes a stellar debut as Australia goes 1-0 up

Mitchell Owen marked his international debut with a half-century and a wicket to help Australia to a three-wicket win in the T20I series opener against West Indies at Kingston. Owen shared an 80-run fifth-wicket stand with Cameron Green to put Australia on course to reach the victory target of 190 with seven balls to spare on Sunday.

The scores: West Indies 189/8 in 20 overs (Chase 60, Hope 55, Hetmyer 38; Dwarshuis 4/36) lost to Australia 190/7 in 18.5 overs (Green 51, Owen 50; Motie 2/29, Holder 2/32, Alzarri 2/39). **Toss:** Australia. **PoM:** Owen.

Srihari exits in 100m freestyle and 50m backstroke semis

Top Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj's journey in men's 100m freestyle and 50m backstroke events ended at the semifinal stage after he clocked 49.56 and 25.39 respectively at the World University Games in Berlin. Both times were below his personal best of 49.46s and 25.11s.

India-A ends European tour with a loss to the Dutch

The India-A men's hockey team ended its campaign in the Europe tour with a 2-8 loss against the Netherlands in Eindhoven, Netherlands. Midfielder Rajinder Singh and forward Selvam Karthi scored the two goals in the final match on Sunday. India-A had lost its previous game against the Netherlands 0-3 last week. India-A began the tour on July 8 and played a total of eight matches against five European teams.

Indian junior shuttlers crash out in the quarterfinals

The Indian junior team fought valiantly before suffering a narrow 104-110 defeat to former champion Japan in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Junior mixed team championships in Solo, Indonesia, on Monday.

LIVE TELECAST

T20I tri-series: New Zealand vs South Africa, FanCode, 4.30 p.m.

England Women vs India Women: 3rd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 p.m.

Bangladesh vs Pakistan: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 p.m.

West Indies vs Australia: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Women in Blue have their task cut out

Except Smriti and Deepti, the batters found the going tough against the spinners at Lord's; they will hope for a much better outing against the slow bowlers in the series decider; the visitors will be looking for early breakthroughs from the pacers before the tweakers get into the act

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
CHESTER-LE-STREET

India will have its task cut out when its faces a rejuvenated England in the series-deciding third Women's ODI here on Tuesday.

India produced a fine display with the bat to win the first match by four wickets but came a cropper in a rain-curtailed game in the British capital on Saturday to leave the three-match series evenly poised at 1-1 heading into the final ODI.

The series holds significance for both teams as the World Cup is scheduled to start in two months' time. The marquee 50-over women's tournament kickstarts on September 30, with five cities across Sri Lanka and India playing host. India came into the second game with its nose ahead and was expected to grab the series due to its all-round strength and form of some big players.

Key player: Opener Smriti will be keen to make the most of her fine form. REUTERS

However, poor shot selection and an inability to adapt to the conditions spoiled the Women in Blue's plans as they struggled to 143 for eight batting first in a 29-overs-a-side contest.

The bowlers, too, failed as England's top-order batters completed an easy chase with plenty of overs to spare.

Now, coming into the decider, India suddenly has a lot to ponder over.

Except for vice-captain Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma, the batters were found wanting against the likes of Sophie Ecclestone, Em Arlott and Linsey Smith at Lord's and the bowling also failed to live up to the expectations.

With the accurate Ecclestone leading the way, the India batters struggled against the spinners especially, and they will certainly hope for a much better outing against the slow bowlers at Chester-le-Street.

The visitors bat bat long but for them to win the game and the series, they will need at least a couple of players from among Smriti, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Pratika Rawal, and Harleen Deol to play big knocks with Richa Ghosh and Deepti providing them support lower down the order.

The team will be looking for early breakthroughs from the pacers before the spinners get into the act.

The teams (from): England: Nat Sciver-Brunt (Capt.), Em Arlott, Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Kate Cross, Alice Davidson-Richards, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Amy Jones, Emma Lamb, Linsey Smith.

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (vice-capt.), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Sree Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare.

Match starts at 5.30 p.m. IST.

Wrestler Sumit wins silver; Anil claims bronze

Sports Bureau

Sumit (60kg) took a silver and Anil Mor (55kg) claimed a bronze medal in Greco-Roman competitions at the Ranking Series wrestling event in Budapest.

Asian under-23 champion Sumit got past Worlds bronze medallist Sadyk Lalaev 9-3 before pinning Korean Dahyun Kim and Kazakh Galym Kabdunassarov to enter the final. However, he lost to 63kg World champion and 60kg European champion Nihat Zahid Mammadali 5-1 in the title clash.

After losing 6-1 to World and European champion Emin Sefershaev in his first bout, Anil bounced back to beat two-time European medallist Moldovan Artium Deleanu 7-0 in repechage and Asian bronze medallist Uzbek Ikhtiyor Botirov 7-4 in the bronze medal contest.

Fine-tuning necessary: The Satwik-Chirag pair has reached three semifinals this season. FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Satwik-Chirag duo will want to make a mark

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
CHANGZHOU

India's top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will aim to build momentum for the upcoming World Championships when they compete at the China Open Super 1000 badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday.

The China Open is the last major event before the World Championships, scheduled from August 25 to 31 in Paris.

Currently ranked World No. 15, Satwik and Chirag have reached three semifinals this season, but their progress was stalled by Satwik's health concerns and Chirag's back injury.

In singles, Lakshya Sen, H.S. Prannoy, and P.V. Sindhu will hope to regain form at the $2,000,000 event.

Among others, Unnati Hooda faces Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour in the first round, while Anupama Upadhyaya takes on Lin Hsiang Ti of Chinese Taipei.

Shadow Fax should score an encore in main event

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward Shadow Fax, who won in his last start, should score an encore in the K. Srinivas Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Tuesday's (July 22) races here.

1 ROYSTON ROCK PLATE (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only, 1.00 p.m.: 1. Authoritarian (3) Gaurav 56, 2. Quick Bay Fox (4) H.M. Akshay 56, 3. Suryavanshi (2) Surya Prakash 56, 4. Arabeska (5) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 5. Blue Nile (7) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 6. Divine Faith (1) P. Ajeeth K 54.5, 7. Honey Luna (6) P. Sai K 54.5, 8. Marissa (8) Md. Ismail 54.5, 9. Nijinsky Star (9) Vivek G 54.5 and 10. Pride Aside (10) B. Nikhil 54.5.
1. AUTHORITARIAN, 2. ARABESKA, 3. PRIDE ASIDE

2 MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), no whip, 1.30: 1. Shadow Baby (4) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Wind Sprite (9) Shivansh 60, 3. Silver Lining (8) Sonu K 59, 4. Role Model (5) Nakhat Singh 58.5, 5. Rolls Royce (1) R.S. Jodha 58.5, 6. Shooting Star (7) B.R. Kumar 57, 7. Smart Boy (3) Mukesh Kumar 55.5, 8. Golden Unicorn (10) Kuldeep Sr. 53, 9. Dali's Champion (2) Kuldeep Jr. 52.5 and 10. Blazing Saddle (6) Ajay K 50.5.
1. SMART BOY, 2. WIND SPRITE, 3. GOLDEN UNICORN

3 FIRECREST PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65, 2.00: 1. Detective (9) Gaurav 60, 2. True Icon (7) P. Ajeeth K 59.5, 3. Sugar (4) B.R. Kumar 58.5, 4. Oliver's Mount (3) Vivek G 55.5, 5. Star Forever (6) Ajay K 54, 6. Linda (8) Ashad Asbar 53, 7. Emperors Charm (2) P. Sai K 52.5, 8. Hurricane Wave (1) Afroz K 52.5 and 9. Briar Ridge (5) B. Nikhil 51.5.
1. LINDA, 2. EMPERORS CHARM, 3. DETECTIVE

4 GODAVARI CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.35: 1. Ayushman (8) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 2. Petaluma (7) Vivek G 60, 3. Sucker Punch (9) H.M. Akshay 60, 4. Racing Ruler (2) P. Sai K 59, 5. Beverley (4) Likith Appu 58.5, 6. Federer (1) P. Ajeeth K 58, 7. My Challenge (10) G. Naresh 58, 8. Mystical Dawn (5) Ashad Asbar 58, 9. Char Ek Char (6) Kuldeep Jr. 57 and 10. Misty Night (3) R.S. Jodha 57.
1. PETALUMA, 2. MYSTICAL DAWN, 3. CHAR EK CHAR

5 FIRECREST PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.10: 1. China Town (2) P. Ajeeth K 60, 2. Get Lucky (3) Md. Ekram 58.5, 3. Just Incredible (7) Kuldeep Sr. 57, 4. Only My Way (9) Afroz K 55.5, 5. Miss Marvellous (8) Likith Appu 54, 6. Black Dust (1) P. Sai K 53, 7. Knotty Senorita (5) Gaurav 53, 8. N R I Ultrapower (6) Varun 52 and 9. Freedom Touch (4) S. Shareef 51.
1. N R I ULTRAPOWER, 2. BLACK DUST, 3. JUST INCREDIBLE

6 K. SRINIVAS REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,100m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.45: 1. Amyra (11) Likith Appu 60.5, 2. Pontefract (9) Shivansh 60.5, 3. She Can (2) B.R. Kumar 60.5, 4. Calista Girl (15) Gaurav 59.5, 5. High Reward (3) R.S. Jodha 59, 6. Malibu (14) Surya Prakash 58.5, 7. Kings Best (10) Md. Ismail 58, 8. Romantic Grey (4) Afroz K 58, 8. Romantic Grey (4) Afroz K 58, 9. Challenger (8) Abhay Singh 57.5, 10. Warwick (6) P. Ajeeth K 57.5, 11. Shadow Fax (7) Mukesh K 56, 12. Winning Attitude (13) A.A. Vikrant 56, 13. Sopranos (5) P. Sai K 55, 14. Blissful (16) Md. Ekram 53.5, 15. Ampere's Touch (1) G. Naresh 52.5 and 16. Coming Home (12) B. Nikhil 52.
1. SHADOW FAX, 2. SHE CAN, 3. PONTEFRACT

7 MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), no whip, 4.20: 1. Vital Sign (9) B.R. Kumar 60, 2. Top In Class (2) Mohit 59.5, 3. Mark My Day (3) R.S. Jodha 58.5, 4. Petra Act (6) Mukesh 58.5, 5. Path Of Peace (5) Surya Prakash 57, 6. Star Cruise (4) Kuldeep Jr. 56.5, 7. Star Medal (1) Abhay Singh 55.5, 8. Exclusive Luck (8) Gaurav 52.5 and 9. Dino (7) Santosh Raj 51.
1. PETRA ACT, 2. VITAL SIGN, 3. STAR CRUISE

8 FAIRWAY PLATE (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4.55: 1. Country's Maximus (4) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Exponent (1) Nakhat 60, 3. Natu Natu (12) G. Naresh 59.5, 4. Genie (2) Md. Ekram 59, 5. Most Beautiful (9) Shivansh 59, 6. Iconic Star (11) Afroz K 58, 7. Hoping High (5) Mohit 57, 8. Fortune Art (10) Santosh Raj 56, 9. Niloufer The Great (6) H.M. Akshay 55.5, 10. Blue Brigade (3) B. Nikhil 54.5, 11. Silver Arrow (8) P. Sai K 54.5 and 12. Bien Pensant (7) Surya Prakash 51.5.
1. MOST BEAUTIFUL, 2. SILVER ARROW, 3. EXPONENT

Day's Best: **PETALUMA**

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8. Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8. Tanala: All races.

India's first F1 driver Narain's life to be immortalised on screen

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Twenty years ago, Narain Karthikeyan made history when he became the first Indian to race in Formula One at the 2005 Australian GP for Jordan Grand Prix team and broke the glass ceiling.

Now, his inspiring and pioneering journey is set to be immortalised on the silver screen through a feature film.

The Tamil-language biopic, to be directed by Mahesh Narayanan, is expected to hit the screens next year.

"People understand what F1 is now after *Drive to Survive* (documentary series on F1 championships) on Netflix, and now the F1 movie as well. So it's great to tell the story about India's first F1 driver. To break all the barriers to get there coming from India, there is a lot of drama in it," said Narain in a chat with *The Hindu*.

"You can see how tough it is, and F1 has always been like this.

"It is tough to be one of the elite 20 drivers. To then break other barriers, it was tremendously difficult.

Pioneer: Narain says he wants to show 'Indians can compete in F1' through this story. FILE PHOTO

> Formula One was my dream, and I think it was a fantastic and wild journey
> **NARAIN**

However, it was exciting as well. Formula One was my dream, and I think it was a fantastic and wild journey," added the former F1 driver who started 46 races over three seasons (2005, 2011-12). Narain revealed that the project has been in the works for the last 18 months, and he will be involved in ensuring the on-track action is filmed realistically, which will include training the lead actor in the basics of racing.

"Through this story, we want to show Indians can compete in F1. If it could be done 20 years ago, it can be done now, and hopefully, this inspires the next generation of sportspersons and racers," said Narain.

SNAPSHOTS

PHF concerned over sending its team to India for Asia Cup

KARACHI: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has informed the sport's global governing body FIH that it will be "difficult" for it to send a team to India for the Asia Cup next month because of "security concerns". Tariq Bugti, who heads the PHF, said it had written to the FIH and Asian Hockey Federation (AHF), expressing its reservation over sending the team to India.

"We have informed them that in the existing scenario, our team will face security risks playing in India," he said.

"We have informed them our players are also not keen to travel to India for the Asia Cup which is also a direct qualifying tournament," he added. The PHF chief said the ball is now in the court of the FIH and AHF to decide about the event and Pakistan's matches.

Pospisil to retire from tennis

TORONTO: Vasek Pospisil, who won a Wimbledon men's doubles title and helped Canada win the Davis Cup, will retire from tennis after playing in the Toronto tournament next week.

Pospisil.
FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

Canada lifts its maiden Hopman Cup

PARIS: Canada won the Hopman Cup for the first time when Bianca Andreescu and Felix Auger-Aliassime teamed up to beat Italy's Lucia Bronzetti and Flavio Cobolli 2-1 in Sunday's final at Bari.

The result: Canada bt Italy 2-1
[Andreescu bt Bronzetti 6-2, 6-3; Auger-Aliassime lost to Cobolli 7-6(7), 5-7, 7-6 (8); Andreescu & Auger-Aliassime bt Bronzetti & Cobolli 6-3, 6-3].

Aryan ousts top seed in Segovia Challenger

SEGOVIA: Aryan Shah knocked out the top seed Duje Ajdukovic of Croatia 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the €91,250 Challenger tennis tournament on Monday. Aryan (ATP ranking 442) was given the main draw entry on the basis of being one of the rising young talents in the world, a special "Next Gen" entry for the tournament.

Aditya Mehta moves into knockouts

MANAMA: Aditya Mehta outclassed Ireland's Jay Chopra 43-5, 40-22, 48-0, 67-0 to become the sixth Indian to make the knockouts of the IBSF World 6-red snooker on Monday.

Anush wins dressage event in Germany

HOFGEISMAR: India's Anush Agarwalla won the dressage event at the Jubilaumsturnier Hofgeismar Open to record his maiden victory with his mare Floriana. Agarwalla recorded 69.891% points to finish atop in the six-member field.

Mikimoto obliges in the feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward Mikimoto, ridden by Kuldeep Singh (Sr), claimed the Osman Sagar Cup (Div. I), the chief event of the opening day's races of the Hyderabad monsoon races here on Monday (July 21).

The winner is owned by Mr. Rajendra rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. P. Ranga Raju & Mr. Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Jockey A. Ashad Asbar stole the limelight by riding three winners on the day.

1. CON AMORE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100M): DASHING CHARM (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Certanity (Gaurav) 2, Moonlite Rose (Afroz K) 3 and Cypress (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. 3/4, 3 and Neck. 1m, 7.85s. ₹17 (w), 12, 39 and 14 (p). SHP: 132, THP: 41, SHW: 16 and 75, FP: 491, Q: 301, Tanala: 1,305. Favourite: Dashing Charm. Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri & Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd, Miss. Harsha N. Desai & Miss. Niti N. Desai. Trainer: L.V. R. Deshmukh.

2. OSMAN SAGAR CUP (DIV. II) (1,200M): BORN BRAVE (Varun) 1, Espionage (Santosh Raj) 2, Imperia (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Calistoga (Vivek G) 4. Neck, 2-1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.51s. ₹66 (w), 20, 13 and 15 (p). SHP: 49, THP: 47, SHW: 47 and 22, FP: 318, Q: 185, Tanala: 983. Favourite: Calistoga. Owners: Mr. Donald Anthony Netto & Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: D. Netto.

3. CON AMORE PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100M): CATCH THE WORM (B.R. Kumar) 1, Foxy Girl (H.M. Akshay) 2, Gusto's Baby (Afroz K) 3 and N R I High Power (Varun) 4. Not run: La Quinta. 2, 3/4 and Neck. 1m, 7.67s. ₹26 (w), 11, 16 and 14 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 33, SHW: 17 and 35, FP: 194, Q: 105, Tanala: 437. Favourite: N R I High Power. Owner: Mr. H.S. Srikanth. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

4. ADILABAD PLATE (1,100M): BRILLIANT LAD (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Dubai Touch (S. Shareef) 2, Perception (G. Naresh) 3 and Pacific Heights (Vivek G) 4. 3/4, 1-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 6.99s. ₹20 (w), 12, 17 and 31 (p). SHP: 56, THP: 70, SHW: 21 and 32, FP: 110, Q: 81, Tanala: 1,166. Favourite: Brilliant Lad. Owner: Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

5. WWW.HYDRACES.COM CUP (1,200M): DIABLO (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Glorious Power (Likith Appu) 2, High Heels (Gaurav) 3 and Sangreal (S. Shareef) 4. 2, 2-3/4 and 1. 1m, 13.72s. ₹12 (w), 10, 33 and 11 (p). SHP: 83, THP: 39, SHW: 12 and 21, FP: 123, Q: 91, Tanala: 389. Favourite: Diablo. Owners: M/s. Ashok Ranpise, Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Teegala Sumant Reddy, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Satish Kumar Reddy Poondla, Giri Prathamesh Mahadev, Bollineni Krishnaiah & Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

6. OSMAN SAGAR CUP (DIV. I) (1,200M): MIKIMOTO (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Ragnarok (Santosh Raj) 2, Miss Maya (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Hurricane Bay (Vivek G) 4. 1-1/4, 2-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.74s. ₹17 (w), 13, 26 and 16 (p). SHP: 107, THP: 49, SHW: 12 and 54, FP: 147, Q: 157, Tanala: 723. Favourite: Mikimoto. Owners: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. Ranga Raju & Mr. Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Trainer: D. Netto.

7. SCARLET PRINCE PLATE (1,400M): GLORIA (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Lifes Journey (Gaurav) 2, Total Control (Surya Prakash) 3 and Sargent (Sonu K) 4. 3-1/4, 5-3/4 and 6. 1m, 27.54s. ₹37 (w), 13, 17 and 72 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 90, SHW: 17 and 16, FP: 119, Q: 74, Tanala: 1,909. Favourite: Lifes Journey. Owners: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

8. TENACITY PLATE (1,200M): LEGO (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Battle On (P. Sai K) 2, Pinatubo (B. Nikhil) 3 and Golden Inzio (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Not run: Always Special and Hoping Queen. 5-3/4, 3-3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 16.43s. ₹20 (w), 15, 17 and 83 (p). SHP: 67, THP: 273, SHW: 14 and 41, FP: 145, Q: 82, Tanala: 6,123. Favourite: Lego. Owner: Mr. G.V. Reddy. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹573 (948 tkts.) & 30%: 101 (2,298 (tkts.). Treble: (i) 361 (142 tkts.), (ii) 123 (269 tkts.), (iii) 110 (403 tkts.). Mini Jackpot : 689 (95 tkts.).